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NSW Police Force

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

2 November 2023

F/2023/35999

The Hon. Michael Daley MP
Attorney General
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Dear Attorney

On 26 May 2023, NSW Deputy State Coroner Magistrate David O'Neil finalised the Inquest into the death of Benjamin Frank Woodhouse. The Deputy State Coroner made the following recommendation:

That the Commissioner of Police consider amending the absconded patient report to police form in the light of these findings to include a requirement to specify where the patient was last seen, by whom and the contact details of the person who last saw the patient.

I can advise that the NSW Police Force (NSWPF) supports the recommendation and notes changes to the form will impact *NSW Health – NSW Police Force Memorandum of Understanding 2018 Incorporating provisions of the Mental Health Act 2007 (NSW) No 8 and the Mental Health (Forensic Provisions) Act 1990* (the MOU).

The NSWPF Crime Prevention Command is working with NSW Health to amend the MOU and the 'Absconded Patient Form' will be included in that work.

Yours sincerely

Karen Webb APM
Commissioner of Police

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