

## COMMITTEE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT COMMISSION AND THE CRIME COMMISSION

2022 Review of the Annual and Other Reports of the Oversighted Bodies:  
17 October 2022

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE: CDRT

#### Question 1

Mrs LESLIE WILLIAMS: ... I did have one question, actually, and it is in relation to the sudden unexpected death in infancies, and it is about your recommendations that I understand still have not been implemented in relation to post mortems. Can you make any comment about that, of whether you have moved any further in getting your recommendations implemented?

Ms WOLF: I would say yes and I would have to take that on notice specifically about the post mortems.

#### **RESPONSE:**

Further updates have been provided in the CDRT Annual Report 2021-22 (tabled 25 October 2022):

In August 2022, NSW Health advised that all SUDI post-mortems in NSW are conducted by appropriately qualified forensic pathologists under the direction of the NSW State Coroner, and that where required a forensic pathologist may consult with a paediatric pathologist. NSW Health also advised that all SUDI post-mortem reports are discussed at a multi-disciplinary SUDI meeting, attended by the Chief Paediatrician, paediatric pathologists, forensic pathologists, a clinical microbiologist, state or deputy state coroner, and forensic medicine social workers. NSW Health subsequently provided a copy of the Terms of Reference for the multi-disciplinary review meeting.

NSW Health also advised that that the new protocol for SUDI post-mortems, the Forensic Medicine Clinical Standard: SUDI/Paediatric post-mortem Performance Standard, has been finalised, and that Forensic Medicine is in the process of implementing an electronic case management system (FMIS - Forensic Medicine Information System). A standardised electronic SUDI/Paediatric post-mortem template has been included in the FMIS, as well as a link to the CDRT's SUDI Classification calculator, to standardise SUDI post-mortem reporting and enhance the consistent classification of SUDI in NSW.

Further information about this recommendation is provided on pages 30-31 of the CDRT Annual Report 2021-22.

#### Question 2

The CHAIR: I will just ask a question regarding safe sleeping if I may. You note that the New South Wales Health's engagement with agencies Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) and Red Nose was delayed by the pandemic. That is in the Annual Report. Have these meetings now occurred since then?

Ms WOLF: I would have to take that one on notice and give you the detail... I think there have been—there has been progress. We are continuing to monitor but we can provide that information in detail.

**RESPONSE:**

In its August 2022 update to the CDRT in relation to the implementation of this recommendation, NSW Health did not provide any additional information about the re-scheduled meetings with the Department of Communities and Justice and Red Nose to discuss opportunities for the agencies to work together to support vulnerable families.

We will continue to seek further information from NSW Health in this regard.

Further information about this recommendation can be found on pages 32-33 of the CDRT Annual Report 2021-22.

Question 3

The CHAIR: I might just ask regarding the child restraints and seatbelts. Has work commenced on the Neuroscience Australia study aimed at child restraint practices in regional areas?

Ms WOLF: Our understanding is that was delayed by COVID but the intent is to do that, and that is not our research, that was—yes.

The CHAIR: Neuroscience Australia study.

Ms WOLF: ... We made a recommendation that there be further work done and that I think through Transport New South Wales, but I will have to check that. But they were going to commission Neuroscience Australia. My understanding is that that was delayed.

**RESPONSE:**

Further updates have been provided in the CDRT Annual Report 2021-22 (tabled 25 October 2022):

In July 2022, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) advised that a new study focussing on child restraint practices in rural and remote areas of NSW will proceed, and that the results would be compared to previous observations made in metropolitan areas. TfNSW noted that Neuroscience Research Australia is ready to conduct the study, but that approvals from schools and day care centres to observe at their sites are required and that it will take 3-6 months for these approvals to be obtained.

The CDRT acknowledges a revised study will be undertaken. We will continue to monitor this recommendation.

Further information about this recommendation is provided on pages 34-35 of the CDRT Annual Report 2021-22.