



CSNSW Ref.: D22/0318625

22 March 2022

The Hon David Shoebridge MLC
Acting Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Regional NSW and Stronger Communities
Parliament of NSW
budget.estimateds@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair

Subject: Clarification of evidence/transcript for Budget Estimates hearing

I write to advise of a clarification to evidence given by myself at the Budget Estimates hearing for Legislative Council Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Regional NSW and Stronger Communities, on Monday, 7 March 2022.

Pages 17-18 of the transcript currently reads as:

CARLO SCASSERRA: The individual had underlying medical conditions and tested positive the day before and was actually due for transport but was taken off transport and then was found deceased in their cell. The Coroner will have to review that and it is subject to a coronial inquiry. We will probably have to wait for the autopsy to really understand what took place.

The Hon. TARA MORIARTY: Why were they taken off transport if they were booked for that?

CARLO SCASSERRA: I am unaware. I think there were just one too many for transport that day. As we said, we move COVID positive people from the regions or the jails back to MRRC and then once they recover they go back again. I believe on that particular day there just could have been too many people for the transport.

The Hon. TARA MORIARTY: That is extraordinary, too many people on a transport list and one of the people who misses out died in their cell.

The ACTING CHAIR: Particularly when they have, at least on the version given by GEO and Correctives, substantial comorbidities that make them particularly vulnerable. It seems to be the very wrong person not to transfer.

CARLO SCASSERRA: The decision would have been made locally at the time. I am unaware of the medical issues and perhaps the transport was not recommended; I am not sure. I would have to take that component on notice. Sometimes if people are unwell, medical does say that it is best not to transport them. We would have to review all of that.

The Hon. TARA MORIARTY: You do not know if that were the case here?

CARLO SCASSERRA: I am unaware.

The Hon. TARA MORIARTY: I accept that you want to take the details on notice. I appreciate it if you could.

CARLO SCASSERRA: The decision would have been made locally at the time. I am unaware of the medical issues and perhaps the transport was not recommended; I am not sure. I would have to take that component on notice. Sometimes if people are unwell, medical does say that it is best not to transport them. We would have to review all of that.

The Hon. TARA MORIARTY: You do not know if that were the case here?

CARLO SCASSERRA: I am unaware.

The Hon. TARA MORIARTY: I accept that you want to take the details on notice. I appreciate it if you could.

The ACTING CHAIR: Sometimes if people are unwell, they get transported in things called "ambulances".

CARLO SCASSERRA: Yes, of course they do. But again decisions are made by medical staff and the like as to whether or not someone is best cared for where they are or whether or not they will be transferred.

The ACTING CHAIR: This man was not cared for. He died alone in a cell with COVID.

CARLO SCASSERRA: The inmate was being looked after. I would believe, as I said, I am unaware of the exact reasons why he was not transported further but he was taken off that transport that morning. But we can get further details to you.

The Hon. TARA MORIARTY: Yes, if you could get further details and also why he was not in hospital. I understand you would have internal processes for transferring.

The evidence provided was what I was advised at the time.

I have since been advised by the General Manager, Junee Correctional Centre, that the inmate in question contracted COVID-19 on 25 January 2022, and the paperwork requesting transport was completed on that same day.

The inmate was scheduled to be transferred by Corrective Services NSW to the Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre on 27 January 2022. He was not removed from transport.

The inmate was being monitored by GEO Health, as per COVID management requirements.

Full details will be provided in the Answers Tabled by the Minister for Corrections.

Yours sincerely

Carlo Scasserra
Assistant Commissioner
Governance and Continuous Improvement