

# Right to Information Decision – Public Disclosure Log

## Right to Information No.: RTI201516-050

### Information Requested

- 1 Have hospital employees in the past five years ever placed a call to request a prison guard attend a prisoner?
- 2 Has that/those requests ever been refused?
  - 2.1 Why?
- 3 In the past five years, have medical staff been left alone with an ambulant prisoner, without the presence of a prison guard?
- 4 If so, what action did the hospital take in those instances?
  - 4.1 Please supply all documentation relating to the above question.
- 5 Was a complaint lodged with corrections?
  - 5.1 Please supply all documentation relating to the above question.
- 6 Was that/were those prisoners known to be violent offenders?
- 7 What are the specific guidelines in relation to guard attendance for dealing with patients from the prison?
- 8 Is a guard expected to be in attendance at all times?
- 9 In the past five years has this always been the case?
- 10 Have medial staff in the past five years lodged a complaint with DHHS regarding their safety when dealing with prison patients?
  - 10.1 Please supply all documentation relating to the above question.

## **Decision and Statement of Reasons**

No information has been provided for the North West hospitals – the North West Regional Hospital and the Mersey Community Hospital. This is due to zero prisoners presenting to these facilities. Only information relating to the Launceston General Hospital and the Royal Hobart Hospital has been provided.

Please note questions 6 – 9 have been transferred to the Department of Justice as discussed with you. Negotiations were also attempted to clarify the meaning of the term prisoner. No response was received. We have taken the term prisoner to mean any patient presenting to the hospital who was in custody – this could include pre-convicted patients in remand, or actual convicted prisoners. The system does not allow this data to be separated.

### **1 Have hospital employees in the past five years ever placed a call to request a prison guard attend a prisoner?**

*Launceston General Hospital*

No.

*Royal Hobart Hospital*

There has been one occasion where a staff member requested a guard for a prisoner. On closer examination, the prisoner was considered low risk and did not require a guard under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal Hobart Hospital and Risdon Prison.

### **2 Has that/those requests ever been refused?**

Not applicable.

### **3 In the past five years, have medical staff been left alone with an ambulant prisoner, without the presence of a prison guard?**

*Launceston General Hospital*

No.

*Royal Hobart Hospital*

No prisoner requiring a guard has been left unguarded with medical staff.

### **4 If so, what action did the hospital take in those instances?**

Not applicable.

### **5 Was a complaint lodged with corrections?**

Not applicable.

### **10 Have medical staff in the past five years lodged a complaint with DHHS regarding their safety when dealing with prison patients?**

*Launceston General Hospital*

No.

*Royal Hobart Hospital*

No.