



Department of Health  
Government of Western Australia



**WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE**

## Joint Internal Memorandum

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**TO:** All Metropolitan Police District Office's & Metropolitan Health Service staff

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**SUBJECT: CHANGES IN PRACTICE REGARDING THE TRANSPORTATION OF MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS**

WA Police and the Department of Health (DoH) have been working together to decrease the involvement of police in the hospital to hospital transportation of mental health patients clinically assessed as medium to low risk.

A number of strategies have been agreed:

- Area Health Services are required to increase their commitment to low to moderate risk inter-hospital patient transports by utilising a combination of government vehicles, ambulance, health service transport officers and mental health staff.
- The Mental Health Amendment Bill 2007 is being drafted and will in the future authorise a third party to undertake mental health transports.
- A Transport Risk Assessment Form has been developed and is to be completed for all transports of mental health patients requiring police assistance.
- WA Police can only be requested to conduct hospital to hospital transports where risk is clinically assessed as high or extreme and this is documented on a Transport Risk Assessment Form.

- The Protocol between the WA Police Service and the DoH is under revision and will reflect changes to the legislation.

If a request from the health services requires WA Police to conduct a mental health transport that is not high or extreme risk, negotiations should be undertaken via the local Incident Management Unit (IMU).

The IMU is required to relay any negotiations that occur with the health services to the District Inspector who will liaise with their respective DoH member to discuss mental health transport practice.

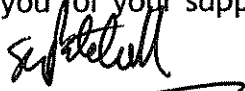
WA Police are still required to conduct a mental health transport if the Mental Health Act 1996 is invoked.

### Community to Hospital Transports

A request by health staff for police assistance for a community to hospital transport is to be treated by WA Police as a Priority 2 or 3, based on the level of risk to health staff. Health staff will be required to complete a Transport Risk Assessment Form for community to hospital transports where WA Police are involved.

Please ensure all District Inspectors, IMU managers and health staff involved in transporting mental health patients are informed of the change in practice. Attached is a list of key contacts for each metropolitan region for WA Police and mental health practitioners.

Thank you for your support.



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