

Provided at Sydney  
hearing on 3/3/10 - for  
Suicide inquiry  
Additional information

We lost our dear son Ben in Oct 2007 at age 29.

He had been suffering with chronic schizophrenia for over 13 years and had many admissions to hospital. He suffered from suicidal ideology over a long period of time.

In 2007 he had a significant relapse and within the weeks prior to admission had expressed to the ARC team feelings of being at risk of self harm. He was scheduled to the Cummins Unit at Royal North Shore Hospital in October that year, where he tragically took his life while on one hour unaccompanied leave.

He was transferred from acute to subacute within 24 hours before he was authorised leave.

He was not assessed the day he died.

There were no nursing or clinical observation notes written for our son on the day he died.

He was told by his case manager the week before he died that his friend, who had been an inmate of the Cummins Unit, had taken his life.

He attended a magistrate's hearing the afternoon he died and was significantly disturbed by the outcome of a further 2 weeks hospitalisation. After the hearing he was calm and asked the registrar for 1 hour unaccompanied leave.

Within 45 mins after leaving the hospital he took his life by jumping from Strathallen Bridge at Northbridge.