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Death In Custody: Ministerial Callous Indifference

“Justice Action joins prison offices and opposition in speaking for prisoners and families calling for a public inquiry into deaths in custody and a coronial inquiry into the Tracy Brannigan case.”

“As put forward by prison reform advocate, Gerry Georgatos, deaths in custody within Australia is on the rise, with an average of 70 deaths per year in our nation. The lack of duty of care held by the nation’s Corrective Services is evident in two recent cases which resulted in the death of three inmates.”

“The Action plan of Tracy Brannigan’s death has been ignored by Minister for Justice, Greg Smith, and Minister for Justice Health, Julie Babinaeu. The Action Plan outlines what measures need to be taken to improve prison life and decrease the number of deaths in custody. This Action Plan can be found here: <http://alturl.com/9gpxh>.”

“Only 35 days after Tracy’s death has the public been made aware of two horrific deaths in custody with the murder-suicide of inmates, Nick Karayiannis and Tien Tran, at Silverwater Prison’s Metropolitan Remand and Reception Centre. This death was a result of trauma and removal of support base for inmates highlighting the lack of duty of care shown by the DCS. If this Action Plan after Tracy’s death had been put in place, the death of these two inmates could have been prevented.”

“While a coronial inquest is being held into the murder-suicide it does not solve the systemic problem. The New South Wales opposition justice spokesman, Paul Lynch, as stated he wants a public inquiry into the deaths in custody which is supported by chairman of the Public Service Assosiation’s prison branch, Mr. Binley. Therefore, this public judicial inquiry into the deaths in custody will put forth the aspects of the Action Plan.”

“Justice Action, following the death of Tracy, proposed an Action plan which was put forward to the Minister for Justice and Minister for Justice Health, asking for assistance to stop deaths in custody in prisons. Unfortunately, no action as been taken by either party.”