



# MAGISTRATES COURT *of* TASMANIA

## CORONIAL DIVISION

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### **Record of Investigation into Death (Without Inquest)**

*Coroners Act 1995  
Coroners Rules 2006  
Rule 11*

**(These findings have been de-identified in relation to the name of the deceased, family, friends, and others by direction of the Coroner pursuant to s57(1)(c) of the Coroners Act 1995)**

I, Olivia McTaggart, Coroner, having investigated the death of QG

**Find, pursuant to Section 28(1) of the Coroners Act 1995, that:**

- a) The identity of the deceased is QG.
- b) QG was born on 29 May 1983 and was 38 years of age when she died. She was single, unemployed and lived at Summerhill with her sons, HM and EV. During her life she was a heavy user of illicit substances, particularly methamphetamine and cannabis. As a result of her methamphetamine abuse, she suffered serious heart issues requiring two valve replacements and several pacemaker insertions. In the month before her death, she suffered a syncopal episode (a blackout).

On 4 December 2021, QG suffered a cardiac arrest in her home and became unresponsive. Her son, EV, sought help but despite attempted resuscitation by attending paramedics, she was pronounced deceased. There were no suspicious circumstances surrounding her death. At autopsy, the forensic pathologist noted the presence of severe ischaemic and valvular heart disease sufficient in itself to cause death. Toxicological testing also revealed a fatal level of methamphetamine and also cannabis in her blood. I find that QG had used these substances shortly before she died.

- c) QG died as a result of the combined effects of ischaemic and valvular heart disease with methamphetamine use.
- d) QG died on 4 December 2021 at Summerhill, Launceston in Tasmania.

In making the above findings, I have had regard to the evidence gained in the investigation into QG's death. The evidence includes:

- The Police Report of Death for the Coroner;
- An opinion of the forensic pathologist who conducted the autopsy;
- Forensic Science Service Tasmania toxicology report;
- Affidavits of life extinct and identification; and
- Affidavit of YN, mother of QG.

### **Comments and Recommendations**

The death of QG highlights the role of methamphetamine in causing premature and fatal cardiac damage.

The circumstances of QG's death are not such as to require me to make any recommendations pursuant to Section 28 of the *Coroners Act 1995*.

I convey my sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of QG.

**Dated:** 24 May 2022 at Hobart Coroners Court in the State of Tasmania.

**Olivia McTaggart**  
**Coroner**