

## QC49 Police Ambulance Intervention Plan eLearning Jimmy background information

Let's think back to Jimmy...

Jimmy is a 42 year old male currently living in hostel style accommodation receiving care and treatment through the local mental health service under a Forensic Order of the Mental Health Act 2016.

He has been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia.

He has been brought into the emergency department (ED) by QPS, who had noticed Jimmy becoming agitated in a shopping centre.

QPS reported that Jimmy began to yell and swear at staff when he was asked to stop smoking inside the shopping centre. QPS reported that despite being intoxicated and agitated, Jimmy was eventually cooperative with them.

### Background

Jimmy, who likes to be referred to as Jimmy, was born in Echuca, Victoria and moved to Queensland as a child. His mother was a single parent and he spent a lot of time alone at home while she worked. He had episodic contact with his father who worked on cattle stations.

As a teenager, Jimmy was drawn into a local group of kids who introduced him to substances including marijuana, hallucinogens and alcohol. At age 22, Jimmy was involved in a physical altercation whilst intoxicated that resulted in an acquired brain injury.

Jimmy has contact twice a month via phone with his adult daughter, Megan, who lives interstate and given his past actions when unwell he does not know her address. Jimmy's ex-partner, his daughter's mother, has not had any contact with Jimmy for over 15 years.

Jimmy was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia in his mid-twenties. He currently has well systematised delusional beliefs involving his local member of parliament (Mr Harry Chambers). Jimmy displays some ambivalence about these beliefs being true, however has previously acted on these beliefs whilst unwell.

### At baseline level of wellness

Jimmy is a softly spoken man who is generally pleasant and non-combative. He enjoys reggae music and likes listening to 97.3FM. He follows the AFL and barracks for the Richmond Tigers. He loves his daughter, Megan, and values their relationship.

He independently attends to his own activities of daily living, including attending to appearance. However, finer details of personal grooming are often neglected such as brushing teeth which results in strong/offensive breath.

He attends the local drop-in centre on a daily basis.

He smokes tobacco.

When well, Jimmy does not typically use alcohol or other substances.

He experiences auditory hallucinations on a daily basis but this is in the background and not subjectively distressing. They do not tend to be command in nature at baseline.

He attends to his physical and mental health by taking medication regularly and keeping his healthcare appointments.

Jimmy has a mild delay in processing and responding to information due to a head injury.

## **When unwell**

Jimmy absents himself from his hostel accommodation, his mental and health care, and hides on the streets.

He self-ceases medication.

He becomes extremely fearful and frightened if he believes he is being followed. In these times, he carries a weapon to protect himself, usually a knife and/or a baton.

He neglects his self-care and does not eat properly. He often becomes physically unwell with a respiratory illness and looks tired, drawn and thin.

He has also been taken advantage of financially.

He uses alcohol as it helps him feel less fearful and says it provides him with a "sixth sense".

He becomes confused and has difficulty paying attention with notable disorganisation of thoughts and tangential, rambling speech. When he is very unwell, he becomes unresponsive and mute. His cognitive capacity is complicated by the impact of his head injury.

In 2016, Jimmy was arrested at Mr. Chambers' office, while making threats towards office staff. This incident led to a review by the Mental Health Court and Jimmy being placed on a Forensic Order. Following the incident at his local member's office, a forensic assessment ascertained Jimmy, when unwell, continues to be at risk of acting on his delusions.

Another incident occurred in the community in 2020 when Jimmy again presented outside Mr. Chambers' office in the context of an acute deterioration in his mental state. He again made threats towards staff and was found to be carrying a knife.

Jimmy has never physically hurt another person though the risk remains that he may do so when unwell and genuinely believes that he needs to defend himself.

## **Jimmy's triggers include**

Stressful life events: Precipitating events for the previous admissions to hospital include his daughter becoming distressed following a breakup from her boyfriend, and/or an interpersonal conflict with a co-tenant.

## **Personal triggers**

Jimmy does not like to be touched and if people stand too close to him, he feels uncomfortable and that his personal space is being invaded. He finds being in close proximity to a lot of people difficult and will often become fearful or agitated if he feels crowded or outnumbered.

Being called Jimmy. He would prefer Jimmy. Being called James can leave him feeling as though he is 'in trouble' or 'has done something wrong'.

## **Situational triggers**

When unwell, Jimmy has a low tolerance to being reality tested about his delusional beliefs. During these times, Jimmy's frustration tolerance is low, often further complicated by decreased impulse control from his head injury, nicotine withdrawal, and not being able to access a cigarette in a timely manner.