

Background information for Harry

Harry is an 18 year old high school student who was brought to the Hospital Emergency Department on Friday, 12th June for assessment. This occurred after police received a phone call from a concerned bystander who had observed Harry running repeatedly into the path of traffic on a busy city street. Police reported that on their arrival Harry was standing on the road semi-naked, gesturing wildly, laughing and shouting loudly at the cars driving by.

On approach Harry did not acknowledge the police and refused to return to the footpath. He shouted out that "nobody can hurt me because I am invisible!" To ensure that Harry remained safe the police decided to escort him off the road. Harry was uncooperative and physically aggressive. During the struggle to get him to safety, Harry dropped a small plastic bag of white powder. The police decided to take Harry to the nearest hospital on an Examination Authority for a mental health assessment.

At the hospital emergency department, Harry refused to enter into any discussion. Staff located Harry's wallet in his clothing and contacted his mother who arrived promptly. She gave a recent history of Harry's behaviour at home describing a significant decline over the past month in his academic and social functioning. She reported his sleep has been disturbed and that he is often awake all night. She noted that he appears to fluctuate between being subdued and sad to angry and violent, with no apparent cause. Despite Harry's denials, she stated that she has suspected drug use as she found drug injecting paraphernalia in his bedroom. She also mentioned that earlier in the day, he had been acting strangely at home by expressing fears that his younger brother was making him ill. He had left home abruptly without stating his intentions.