

**THIS IS AN OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE MENTAL HEALTH REVIEW  
TRIBUNAL PROCEEDINGS IN RELATION TO MS SULLIVAN AUTHORISED  
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRIBUNAL ON 21 MAY 2019**



*This is an edited version of the Tribunal's decision. The patient has been allocated a pseudonym for the purposes of this Official Report*

**CIVIL REVIEW:** Ms Sullivan  
**TRIBUNAL:** Richard Gulley Deputy President  
**DATE OF HEARING:** 13 March 2019  
**PLACE:** XR Hospital  
**APPLICATION:** Mental Health Inquiry (s34 *Mental Health Act 2007*)

### **Preamble**

Ms Sullivan is in her early forties and has a history of bulimia nervosa and anorexia nervosa. She presented to ED following a collapse at home and was then admitted to the medical ward for assessment. Blood tests showed hypokalemia and deranged liver enzymes. The treating team considered her condition to be life threatening and scheduled her.

The cause of the collapse was most likely a cardiac dysrhythmia, secondary to low potassium caused by Ms Sullivan poor nutritional intake. Ms Sullivan's continued to restrict food intake on the medical ward, binged and purged. Attempts to feed her via a naso-gastric tube were unsuccessful as Ms Sullivan pulled the tube out.

At the mental health inquiry the treating team requested a 6 week involuntary patient order on the basis that Ms Sullivan's beliefs around her weight, that is, that she is at a healthy weight, are of delusional intensity and her condition is deteriorating and she is at imminent risk of death. Ms Sullivan, is in renal failure and is at risk of cardiac arrest due to low potassium. She has gained 2 kilos since admission and the team aim for Ms Sullivan to gain 1 kilo a week.

### **DECISION**

The Tribunal determined under s35 of the *Mental Health Act 2007* that Ms Sullivan:

- is a mentally ill person, and
- must be detained in or admitted and detained in in XR Hospital for further observation or treatment, or both, as an involuntary patient unless discharged until a date no later than 24 April 2019.

## REASONS FOR DECISION OF MEMBER

(Ms Sullivan) is a 41 year old lady. She has a history of bulimia nervosa and anorexia nervosa. Following a collapse at her home she was admitted to the medical ward of XR Hospital on 2 February 2019 and remained there for treatment until the 26 February 2019. On one occasion she absconded from the ward. She is now an involuntary patient on the Banskia ward where she was admitted for treatment on 2 March 2019. The collapse at home was, it is suggested, as a result of Ms Sullivan's poor nutritional intake which caused her potassium levels to fall which again placed her at serious risk to herself. During admission Ms Sullivan has demonstrated a poor insight into her condition. She would binge on food brought to the hospital by relatives, she would purge herself and NG tube feeding was difficult as she would remove the tube placing herself again at risk. Generally she has not been receptive to educational programs and treatment. However there have been signs of weight gain and increase in her BMI. Weight gain since admission has been two kilos. Her BMI is currently 16. Desirable would be 18. She is 42 kilos. Desirable would be 49 kilos.

The Tribunal was satisfied that the patient was suffering from a condition, namely anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa, and that condition seriously impairs her mental functioning. It is characterised by a serious disorder of thought. Her beliefs about her weight are of delusional intensity. Her condition without treatment, is one of deterioration. She is at severe risk to herself due to that condition. She requires treatment and care and control for her own protection. There is no other less restrictive alternative.

Signed:

Richard Gulley  
**Deputy President**

Dated: 13 March 2019