

Response from Mick Carroll, Editor, Saturday Telegraph:

The article to which you refer was primarily concerning the suicide death of another ex-servicemen and followed a series of reports we have been doing as part of a campaign for a royal commission into suicide deaths and better mental health services in the armed services.

A respected veterans advocacy group that has been helping with the campaign highlighted to us Stuart Burney's death and battles with PTSD and mental ill-health.

We engaged in a lengthy email correspondence with his mother and another family member. The family then referred us to a third party and said he would be acting as the family's spokesman.

We have not received any correspondence from Mr Burney's ex-wife of three years. Until your inquiry, we were unaware she was trying to make contact with us. We have since attempted to speak with her directly as a matter of urgency.

We have also followed up with Mr Burney's mother about the results of the coronial inquest, which she said she received this week, and a follow-up story about the findings and comments from her will appear in the Sunday Telegraph on May 9. We have also updated the digital version of the original story.

The area of mental health, especially in the defence forces, is important to this newsroom and we deeply regret any further distress we caused any families.