

Counsellor reveals “Tyler wanted to grow up”

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Tyler Cassidy.

Police shooting victim Tyler Cassidy's troubled emotional and behavioural history from age 11 has been laid bare at an inquest into his death.

His long-term counsellor Vic Sant, a youth mental health worker at the Austin Hospital, has catalogued three separate incidents at three different high schools where the boy's aggression against teachers or other students had caused concern.

Mr Sant revealed that Tyler was also expelled from two high schools, the last one being Templestowe College in mid 2008.

Tyler, 15, confronted police at a skate park in Northcote on December 11, 2008. He was highly agitated and issuing threats to kill when he was shot by three police officers.

Mr Sant saw Tyler for 18 individual therapy sessions in the aftermath of his father's death in December 2004.

He told the inquest Tyler had been reluctant to engage with formal counselling.

They first met after an incident where Tyler had lain down on a road and a car had swerved to avoid him.

Tyler had expressed a desire to die at the time, Mr Sant told the Coroner's Court today.

Mr Sant said he had not heard Tyler express any further suicidal thoughts after he spent a month as an inpatient at the hospital in early 2005.

Their last session was on August 25, 2008.

“Tyler consistently talked about the future and acted accordingly,” Mr Sant said.

“He had a great desire to grow up and 'be normal'.”