

Mother of Tyler Cassidy warned police about her son's anger - inquest

- Paul Anderson
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Shani Cassidy. Picture: Chris Scott *Source:* Herald Sun

THE mother of shot teenager Tyler Cassidy told a detective after the fatal Northcote police shooting that her son had anger management issues and that she rang and told police earlier that night to "...look out for Tyler...", an inquest into the death has heard.

In her statement tendered at the inquest today, Sen-Det Anna Dickinson said Shani Cassidy told her several things at the scene, before later being informed of her son's death by other police officers.

According to Sen-Det Dickinson, Mrs Cassidy told her:

- HER son was missing.
- HE had visited a friend in Diamond Creek earlier that day and had returned home extremely angry.

- HE tried to grab knives and a baseball bat from home before he ran away empty-handed.
- HE had sent a text to his brother Blake saying that he was going to kill himself.
- HE had anger management issues.

According to Sen-Det Dickinson, Mrs Cassidy also told her:

“That approximately half an hour earlier she had rung Northcote police station and spoke to a male police member (and) told him to look out for Tyler as police should be careful he doesn’t hurt them or himself.”

In evidence today, Leading Sen-Constable Scott Gevaux – who was an acting sergeant on duty the night Tyler was shot – told State Coroner Jennifer Coate he had every confidence in the two policemen who responded to the calls about an armed Tyler.

According to Leading Sen-Constable Gevaux, one of the policemen – Leading Sen-Constable Colin Dods – was a professional officer who knew how to handle people and critical situations.

He said he did not believe Leading Sen-Constable Dods was an aggressive person.

Of Sen-Constable Richard Blundell – the second policeman involved on the night – Leading Sen-Constable Gevaux said he had successfully and peacefully dealt with similar incidents involving armed people.

Leading Sen-Constable Gevaux said he also knew of the two policewomen – then constables Nicole De Propertis and Antonia Ferrante – who were also involved on the night.

The inquest has previously been told that, of the four, Constable Ferrante was the only one who did not fire a shot.

The hearing has heard that the three others felt forced to shoot after Tyler had been sprayed with capsicum foam and at least one warning shot had been fired.