

Teen shooting 'not necessary': witnesses

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Two women who saw teenager Tyler Cassidy shortly before he was fatally shot by police allegedly told a man near the scene "the gunshots were not necessary", a court has heard.

The two women told a friend of Tyler's family, James Wendt, as he searched for Tyler on the night of his death that they had seen the 15-year-old earlier when he patted their dog.

On Monday, Mr Wendt told an inquest into Tyler's death in December 2008 that Tyler's brother Blake had asked him to join the search because Tyler had told Blake he was going to kill himself.

Mr Wendt said he saw an ambulance in Northcote and followed it to near the Northcote skate park.

He saw police officers there and asked them if he could go and speak to Tyler as he believed the boy was the person they had in the skate park.

He said the officers told him he could not go into the skate park and one of them escorted him back to his car.

Mr Wendt said he was later approached by two females, who asked him if he was alright.

He said the women told him they had seen Tyler get "maced" and fled because they were scared.

"They told me that they had spoken to the same male who was in the skate park," Mr Wendt said.

"I was told that they had spoken to him a little earlier in the evening after he had approached them and patted their dog.

"They also told me that the gunshots were not necessary."

The inquest before State Coroner Jennifer Coate is continuing.