

Aged 18, Graham X was thrown into prison with murderers, sex offenders and psychopaths. He had been living freely in Darwin after being questioned by police when he was 15-year-old teenager, then, three and a half years later, he was summons to appear in the Supreme Court before Chief Justice Brian Martin. Tried as an adult, he was sentenced to 7 years in March, 2007. The judge was surprised to hear that the only time served previous to sentencing was the 4 months on remand after the trial in November 2006. During those months, Graham's daughter had been born.

In many ways, Chief Justice Brian Martin gave Graham X a life sentence – after 7 years Graham was released back into a community he did not recognise, untrained, and haunted by the horrors he had witnessed in the Northern Territory's notorious Berrimah Prison.

The 2020 inquest of Chris Malyschko suggests that nothing has changed in this medieval dungeon where the majority of prisons are Aboriginal.

### HITMAN'S INQUEST: JAIL DRUG MYSTERY – STASH 'INTERFERENCE'

NT News, Tuesday, 10 November, 2020, page 6.

by Susan Matthews

Drugs found in the jail cell of the NT's first contract killer, Chris Malyschko, were “interfered with” before a police crime scene examiner arrived at the death scene, a coronial inquest has heard.

Malyschko, 31, was found dead inside his cell in Holtze prison on the morning of August 20 last year [2019] in circumstances shrouded in mystery until a coronial inquest into his death began on Monday.

The inquest heard a forensic pathologist ruled Malyschko died from “positional asphyxia” due to synthetic cannabis use and obesity after he was found face down in the Darwin Correctional Centre.

However, he also had a number of mysterious injuries, including deep bruising to his stomach and chest, fresh cuts on his anus and blood on his buttocks.

Counsel assisting the coroner, Kevin Currie, told the inquest that prisoners said synthetic cannabis, commonly known as “Kronic” was “rife” throughout prison especially among Sector 7 where Malyschko lived.

Sector 7, where those given life sentences are housed, is home to some of the NT's most notorious prisoners, such as Malyschko, his co-accused Zak Grieve and Peter Falconio's murderer, Bradley Murdoch.

Murdoch is one of the “lifers” set to give evidence at the inquest.

Holtz Chief Correctional Officer James Sizeland told the inquest there were no cameras in the hallways or common areas of Sector 7 because there was “a degree of trust” with the prisoners housed there.

Coroner Greg Cavanagh told the inquest photos taken in Malyschko's cell by Corrections “revealed” that items on the shelves, including what is believed to have been a bag containing Malyschko's drugs, were “interfered with” while Mr Sizeland was in the cell.

“Any explanation for that?” Mr Cavanagh asked.

“When I left the scene I don't believe police had already taken photographs,” Mr Sizeland replied [sic]. The inquest continues.

### KRONIC MARIHUANA RIFE IN DARWIN'S HOLTZ PRISON INQUEST TOLD BRUISED AND BLOODIED LIFER FOUND DEAD

From The Northern Territory News, Wednesday, 11 November, 2020, page 17.

The inquest heard on Monday that Malyschko was found dead in his cell on the morning of August 20 last year [2019], with a forensic pathologist ruling his death was caused by “positional asphyxia” from Kronic use and obesity.

[Bradley] Murdoch told the inquest the use of Kronic was rampant in the lead-up to Malyschko's death. He said he called a meeting of the sector just days before to complain about use of the drug among the inmates.

“I growled at the whole house, I said I've had enough of it,” Murdoch said.

“At the end of it, I said someone's going to die from this, and three days later (Malyschko died)/ Malyschko had served eight years of a life sentence for the killing of Ray Niceforo, his mother Bronwyn Buttery's abusive ex-partner, in 2011 in Katherine.

Ms Buttery pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was released on parole several years ago. Malyschko's co-accused and good friend Zak Grieve, who was also convicted of murder even though he pulled out at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, gave evidence at the inquest about internal bruising and anal lacerations an autopsy found Malyschko suffered right before his death.

Grieve said he did not believe the injuries were from “any form of sexual conduct”.

Other prisoners called to give evidence included Shane Thomas, who bashed, stabbed and dismembered Marshal Haritos in 2004, and Phu Trinh, who killed two Thai sex workers when he was a teenager.

Ms Buttery tearfully addressed the inquest, saying Malyschko's crime was “driven by love and a sense of duty to me and his brother.”

The inquest continues.