



# Bias Crimes Investigation Agreement

## **SITUATION:**

The Sydney Morning Herald recently ran four articles over three days relating to unsolved gay hate murder cases and the lack of police action, with claims of police taking part in gay bashings in the past and police heavy handedness at this year's Mardi Gras parade proving nothing has changed. These articles have significant potential to damage the reputation of NSWPF and damage the relationships between the GLBTI community and police, especially after the negative media coverage after this year's Mardi Gras parade and the claims of police brutality.

## **MISSION:**

To conduct a bias crime assessment of suicides and suspicious deaths in the Northern Beaches and Central Metropolitan Region areas, between 1976 and 2000, to determine if an anti-gay bias was involved in any of the deaths.

## **AGREEMENT:**

- 1) The bias crime assessment will focus solely on determining whether an anti-gay bias motivation (as defined in the draft SOPS) was involved in all deaths that are reviewed.
- 2) The assessment will be limited to deaths that have been recorded as suicide or suspicious deaths within the Central Metropolitan Region and the Northern Beaches areas.
- 3) The time period to be covered by the assessment will be from 1976 – 2000.
- 4) The time frame for the assessment will be 6 months commencing October 2013.
- 5) If during the course of the assessment suspects are identified, that information will be forwarded to the Unsolved Homicide Team for information and possible further investigation.
- 6) At the conclusion of the assessment a detailed report outlining the bias classification of each incident and the justifying material will be compiled and disseminated to the Commander, Operational Programs, the Corporate Sponsor, Sexuality & Gender Diversity, the Corporate Sponsor, Bias Crimes and Commander, Homicide Squad.

## **EXECUTION:**

The review will be undertaken utilising the below approach;

## **Bias Crimes Indicators**

Each incident will be filtered through the current ten bias crimes indicators. The purpose of this is to identify potential deaths that may have a bias motivation. The indicators do not mean that an incident was in fact bias motivated, but suggest a possibility of a bias motivation.

## **Local Crime Analysis & Profile**

The areas identified as locations of interest will be analysed to identify any patterns of bias motivated crime that may have been occurring prior to, during or after the times of the deaths. The analysis will include COPS data, Occurrence Pad entries, speaking to police who worked in that area around the time and information from other government agencies to develop a picture of the level and extent of anti-gay bias motivated crime.

## **Victim Profile**

A victim profile will be developed to identify any issues that may have either contributed to the victim being targeted or issues that may rule out bias motivation as a factor. To develop the profile the following information will be utilised;

- Medical history (physical and psychological)
- Dress (usual clothing worn and at time of incident)
- Activities of the victim
- Friends/Partner (whether openly gay or not)
- The victims history of beat use
- Injuries sustained
- Family (whether they were openly gay or not)
- Victim Motivation

To develop the profile it will be necessary to obtain medical records as well as to speak to individuals (family members, partners, etc.).

## POI Profile

A POI profile will be developed to assist in determining a possible offender bias crime typology. In developing the profile the following information will be utilised;

- MO
- Group makeup
- Organised Hate Group activity/affiliation
- Target selection
- POI motivation

To develop the profile it will be necessary to speak to individuals convicted of similar offences. Any conversation will be limited to the matter related to the conviction of the individual.

## Miscellaneous

In assisting in determining if a anti-gay bias motivation was a factor the following miscellaneous sources will be utilised;

- Gay media
- Local media
- Mainstream media
- Discussions with beat users
- Discussion with victims of similar incidents or other bias motivated incidents
- Information from the public
- Any other source of information that may assist in determining motivation

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Sgt STEER

Bias Crimes Coordinator

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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Chief Supt SHEPHERD

Commander, Operational Programs

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supt. CRANDELL

Corporate Sponsor, Sexual & Gender Diversity

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supt. SULLIVAN

Corporate Sponsor, Bias Crimes

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_