

D/2017/441224

**ISSUE:**

**Operational Parrabell – NSW Police Force investigative review of 88 alleged gay-hate motivated murders between 1976 and 2000. Briefing sought by Members of Parliament Alex Greenwich, Member for Sydney; Bruce Notley-Smith, Member for Coogee; Penny Sharpe, MLC; Jenny Leong, member for Newtown; and Trevor Khan, MLC.**

**BACKGROUND:**

During 2013 a number of articles were published in the Sydney Morning Herald, together with a scholarly article published by the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) relating to 88 suspicious deaths with potential gay-hate motivations across NSW. Allegations were also made of police inaction; police taking part in gay bashings; and police brutality at the 2013 Mardi Gras Parade against members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (GLBTI) community.

Unrest in the GLBTI community has continued without answers to difficult questions of bias motivation related specifically to 88 deaths of men between 1976 and 2000. Each death was reported as involving victims with some GLBTI community connection whether because of sexuality, sexual preference or place of death.

Operation Parrabell was created to establish a thorough investigative review of all 88 deaths with re-investigation of cases wherever determined necessary within a context of increasing speculation and growing 'urban mythology' unsupported by facts available to police. Examples are the recent SBS documentary and mini-series 'Deepwater' aired in September 2016; and a recent book authored by Duncan McNab entitled 'Getting away with Murder – Up to 80 men murdered, 30 unsolved deaths' published on 30 January 2017.

On 30 August 2015 Operation Parrabell commenced to determine whether the 88 deaths originally listed in the AIC submission by Thomson and Thomsen could be classified as motivated by bias or gay-hate. Where appropriate, investigators were to make recommendations about conducting further enquiries if fresh evidence might be uncovered, however action upon such recommendations would only occur after the review phase was complete.

Up to ten criminal investigators were seconded to Operation Parrabell over an 18 month period which remains oversighted by Surry Hills LAC. Operation Parrabell will soon complete all suspicious death reviews including those investigated under Operation Tarradale with assistance from the Unsolved Homicide Squad.

In short the Operation Parrabell Terms of Reference include:

- Assessments are limited to 88 deaths identified suspected of being suspicious
- The time period for deaths being assessed is between 1976 and 2000
- The timeframe for review is 18 months from 30 August 2015
- If during the course of the assessment suspects are identified, that information will be forwarded to the Unsolved Homicide Team for information and further inquiries/investigation
- At the conclusion of each assessment a detailed report outlining the bias classification of each incident and justifying material will be prepared and presented to prominent representatives of the GLBTI community
- Each incident will be filtered through the NSW Police Force 10 bias crime indicators to identify whether there is any evidence of bias motivation

**COMMENT:**

A significant part of Operation Parrabell was to explain investigative strategies and deliver findings to prominent representatives of the GLBTI community.

Additionally, funding was approved by the NSW Police Force for an academic review of Operation Parrabell findings with Flinders University in South Australia winning the successful tender.

Operation Parrabell is now almost complete with two final briefs being examined and summary reports being prepared for presentation to the Commissioners Executive Team. Additionally, the academic review is almost complete with recommendations being fashioned to address the potential for improvements to the NSW Police Force system of bias crime classification.

Preliminary findings from Operation Parrabell indicate evidence of bias motivation in approximately 30 cases rather than the 88 cases originally reported in mainstream media and via the Australian Institute of Criminology. Regular media inquiries have been received regarding the timeframe for completion of Operation Parrabell in anticipation of reporting opportunities.

Four cases were the subject of an initial briefing to Alex Greenwich and Jenny Leong primarily to indicate the method and system of reviews being undertaken on 1 December 2015.

Most recently Mr Greenwich has indicated his desire to receive a briefing on the progress and findings of Operation Parrabell. Mr Greenwich has indicated a number of other Parliamentarians interested in also being briefed at the same time, with a preliminary indication of late June 2017. Those Parliamentarians include:

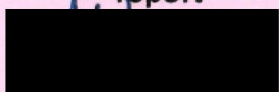
- Alex Greenwich, Member for Sydney
- Jenny Leong, Member for Newtown
- Bruce Notley-Smith, Member for Coogee
- Penny Sharpe, MLC and
- Trevor Khan, MLC

Significant angst has been felt for some time within the GLBTI community surrounding questions of investigative impropriety and bias as well as the prospect of offenders not being brought to justice because of solvable crimes remaining otherwise outstanding. The extent of community feeling was mentioned during a speech by Alex Greenwich MP in a Private Members Statement to the NSW Parliament on 4 August 2015.

Publicising the outcomes and findings of Operation Parrabell is likely to address many GLBTI community concerns to re-establish relationships of trust with the NSW Police Force given the vast difference between allegations made, subsequent findings of Operation Parrabell and expected findings of the academic review team.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Commissioner's Office notes the content of this report
2. The Minister for Police is briefed upon information contained in this report



A.P. Crandell  
Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Corporate Sponsor, Sexuality and Gender Diversity  
18 May 2017

#### 1. A/DCoP Corporate Services

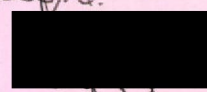
*Noted. P. Crandell A/DCoP 22/5/17.  
I support the recommendations, however note the "speculation and urban mythology" referred to by Mr. Crandell is completely understandable and should in no way deflect the legitimate*

#### 2. Office of the Commissioner

*concerns of many people.*  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FIELD OPERATION

*Forwarded.*

#### 3. Office for Police of the Commissioner



*J. A. La  
Dior Metropolitan  
22/5/17.*




*6/17*

#### 4. Office for Police

*cc DCOP Investigations & Counter Terrorism.*



Re: Operational Parrabell (D/2017/441224) [DLM=Sensitive:Law Enforcement (SLE)] 

Anthony Crandell to: Belinda Marie Smith

30/05/2017 17:19

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History: This message has been replied to.

Hi Bel,

The email trail is below. I would estimate 3 months before the completed product because I am still waiting for the academic review to be completed.

Regards

TC

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Sorry Roy

I will first need to get the proper authorities from my Deputy Commissioner, so there may be a small delay from my end. With that in mind the more notice the better, although I will commence that process immediately.

Regards

Anthony Crandell APM  
A/Assistant Commissioner  
Commander, Education  
and Training Command

On 5 May 2017, at 6:13 pm, ElectorateOffice Sydney <[ElectorateOffice.Sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ElectorateOffice.Sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au)> wrote:

Thanks Tony

Alex has suggested that it would be really useful for the cross-party NSW Parliamentary Friendship Group for LGBTIQ people.

This includes Bruce Notley-Smith, Penny Sharpe, Jenny Leong, Trevor Khan and Alex.

Would this work for you?

Please let us know if that is OK and we'll follow up about some time – perhaps during a Parliament sitting week when all MPs will be in Sydney?

Thank you

Roy Bishop

**From:** Anthony Crandell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 May 2017 3:23 PM  
**To:** ElectorateOffice Sydney  
**Subject:** Re: Parabell

Yes I will certainly keep him (and you) updated. I will make sure that you and Alex are aware of progress before we release anything.

I can arrange an earlier briefing if you like....just be a matter of lining up a suitable meeting time.

Regards

Regards

Anthony Crandell APM

A/Assistant Commissioner

Commander, Education

and Training Command

On 4 May 2017, at 2:40 pm, ElectorateOffice Sydney <[ElectorateOffice.Sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ElectorateOffice.Sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au)> wrote:

Thanks Tony

Alex is keen to keep up with progress. Were you thinking he would be included in the briefing?

Regards

Roy Bishop

**From:** Anthony Crandell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 May 2017 2:21 PM  
**To:** ElectorateOffice Sydney  
**Subject:** Re: Parabell

Hi Roy

I am still trying to arrange a consultation meeting with ACON which has been delayed many times. This is not a problem regarding completion because I am also waiting on our academic review report and I am working on my executive summary.

My best guess is about 2 more months depending on our LGBTI partners. I also need to present it to the new Commissioner for approval to release which will happen after I have compiled all material.

Regards

Anthony Crandell APM

A/Assistant Commissioner

Commander, Education  
and Training Command

On 3 May 2017, at 4:46 pm, ElectorateOffice Sydney <[ElectorateOffice.Sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ElectorateOffice.Sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au)> wrote:

Dear Tony

Are you able to let us know when you expect the Parabell report to be public?

Thanks

Roy Bishop JP

Electorate Officer for Alex Greenwich MP

**Independent Member for Sydney**

Ground Floor 21 Oxford Street Darlinghurst 2010 (corner Brisbane Street)

Phone 9267 5999

Belinda Marie Smith	Dear Sir, I refer to the above pink, which has ju...	30/05/2017 16:11:43
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From: Belinda Marie Smith [REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice  
To: Anthony Crandell [REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice  
Date: 30/05/2017 16:11  
Subject: Operational Parrabell (D/2017/441224) [DLM=Sensitive:Law Enforcement (SLE)]

Dear Sir,

I refer to the above pink, which has just arrived in this Office.

It would be much appreciated if you could please forward to me a copy of Mr Greenwich's most recent correspondence (referred to on page 2 of the report), which seems to have, in part, precipitated the preparation of the report.

Also, in terms of the finalisation of both Operation Parrabell (including summary reports for the Executive) and the academic review, are you able to estimate a timeframe for their completion - ie. 3 months?

Many thanks, Belinda

Belinda Smith  
Executive Officer  
Office of the Commissioner

[REDACTED]