

From: [Ainslie Blackstone](#) on behalf of [Ainslie Blackstone](#) [REDACTED]
To: [Gelina Talbot](#); [Anthony Crandell](#); [Daniel Doherty](#); [Michael Willing](#)
Cc: [-M-MDL-PMUDUTYMANAGER](#); [Lauren Treweek](#); [Michael Garrahy](#); [Marvanne Stanford](#)
Subject: FW: ABC TV 7.30 request [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 8 November 2021 09:50:58

Morning Ma'am and Sirs,

Please see below inquiry from ABC 730 (which I tried to decline, but got more questions instead).

I have drafted a response for consideration – but I will need to check with Homicide that I have the facts correct.

Happy to discuss your thoughts.

A

As discussed, Deputy Commissioner Willing provided the police response to the announcement of the inquiry, which is the only comment we will be making at this stage.

In terms of Strike Force Parrabell, I can advise it was a review of 86 cases, which determined that 27 cases were gay-hate bias crime (eight confirmed and 19 suspected). At that time, five remained unsolved.

Two of the unsolved matters are now before the courts – *Scott Johnson and Raymond Keam* – while the other three – *Ross Warren, Giles Mattaini and John Russell* – remain under the responsibility of the Unsolved Homicide Team and will undergo reviews as per their protocols.

You can find a copy of the Strike Force Parrabell media release and facts/figure summary after my signature block.

We have previously provided extensive responses on the investigations into the assault of Alan Rosendale. A summary is below:

Despite exhaustive inquiries, police have been unable to find evidence that directly links the assault upon Alan Rosendale to the assault witnessed by Paul Simes.

In 2013, Surry Hills detectives conducted numerous inquiries in an effort to:

- Determine whether the assaults are one and the same; and,***
- Ultimately, track down and arrest the men responsible for Mr Rosendale's assault.***

Over the course of the investigation, detectives invested significant time and effort into their inquiries.

In addition to taking statements from Mr Rosendale and Mr Simes, officers also tracked down the witness who originally reported the assault on Mr Rosendale.

A statement was taken from this witness – a milkman who was working in the area on the night of Mr Rosendale's assault – however due to the passage of time he no longer had a strong recollection of the case.

Based on information from Mr Simes, who said he had reported the assault he witnessed to the Gay Anti Violence Project back in 1989, detectives made inquiries with ACON (information police gathered indicated that the Gay Anti Violence Project evolved into ACON).

ACON checked their records to see if they had any information on the assault but were unable to find anything.

After speaking to ACON, detectives contacted a man who was an active member of the gay community in the late 1980s. This man had a vague recollection of hearing about Mr Rosendale's assault, but admitted there were a number of similar assaults that occurred around the same time.

This man made enquiries with a number of his connections but was unable to track down any further information.

Detectives also spoke to the officer who took the statement from Mr Rosendale while he was in hospital in 1989.

This man, now retired, was unable to recall the incident in detail due to the passage of time.

As well as taking a number of statements and speaking to a number of people, detectives conducted numerous searches of police records in an effort to find any recorded information that may be linked to Mr Rosendale's assault or Mr Simes' original report. Those searches did not yield any notable results.

Without evidence police cannot confirm that the assault upon Mr Rosendale early on 6 May 1989 was the same assault witnessed by Mr Simes around 1am on a cool, dark morning in 1989.

The investigation into Mr Rosendale's assault remains open and anyone who believes they have evidence relating to the matter is encouraged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

The NSW Police Force made a public apology to the 78ers in 2016:

https://www.police.nsw.gov.au/safety_and_prevention/your_community/working_with_lgbtqia/lgbtqia_accordi-an/nsw_police_force_apologises_to_the_78ers



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From: Jason Om <Om.Jason@abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 8 November 2021 9:06 AM
To: Ainslie Blackstone <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: ABC TV 7.30 request [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks so much Ainslie.

In that case, would NSW Police be able to provide a statement to the following questions:

Strike Force Parrabell examined 88 deaths, 23 of which were unsolved. Is that figure of 23 still correct? Currently, how many active investigations are there into gay hate crimes or suspected gay hate crimes (assaults or murders)? I read somewhere that some have been referred to the unsolved homicide unit?

In the case of Alan Rosendale, he believes police in an unmarked police car were somehow linked to his attack and other gay hate crimes. What is NSW Police's response?

What does NSW Police think should happen to currently serving or former police officers who are found by the judicial inquiry to have turned a blind eye to gay hate crimes, or been involved in them?

Has NSW Police apologised for past failings in investigating gay hate crimes yet, as the community has pushed for?

By 2pm would be much appreciated.

Cheers, Jason.

From: Ainslie Blackstone <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 8 November 2021 6:45 AM
To: Jason Om <Om.Jason@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: ABC TV 7.30 request [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Jason,

The NSW Government has yet to announce the details of the inquiry and terms of reference.

Deputy Commissioner Willing responded some questions at an unrelated press conference on the day of the announcement, so you may be able to use those comments.

I hope this helps,

Ainslie



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From: Jason Om <Om.Jason@abc.net.au>

Sent: Sunday, 7 November 2021 8:00 PM

To: #PMU <[REDACTED]>

Subject: ABC TV 7.30 request

Hi there,

I'm a reporter with the ABC's 7.30 program and wondering whether someone from NSW Police might be available for some grabs tomorrow, responding to the judicial inquiry into gay hate crimes?

I'd be keen to ask them about the types of cases subject to the inquiry, how the inquiry will sit alongside existing investigations, and what NSW Police thinks about claims police officers were involved in some of the crimes.

Ideally, the interview would be before 2pm.

Happy to discuss details. My number [REDACTED]

Cheers, Jason.

Jason Om
Reporter
ABC TV 7.30
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