



STATEMENT OF POLICE

In the matter of: Inquest into the death of Scott JOHNSON: December 1988.
Place: NSW Police Homicide Squad, Parramatta.
Date: 08 April 2015

Name: Steven MORGAN Tel. No: [REDACTED]
Rank: Detective Sergeant
Station/Unit: Unsolved Homicide Team, Homicide Squad

STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 52 years of age.
3. In making this statement I have perused a number of 'on-line' media reports relating to the death of the deceased Scott JOHNSON- aged 27 years, whose body was located upon rocks at the base of Blue Fish Point, North Head; on 09 December 1988. The body of the deceased was naked when found, and his clothing was apparently located neatly folded at the top of the cliff.
4. I am not at this time, nor have I previously been assigned to Strike Force Macnamir: the coronial investigation into the death of Mr. JOHNSON.
5. I have been a police officer for more than twenty-seven years, having worked predominantly in the field of criminal investigation.
6. In addition to my regular policing duties, I am also an accredited police negotiator. I commenced negotiator training in 1996, and completed that training in July 1999. In July 2004, I successfully completed the Counter Terrorism Negotiators Course in Darwin, qualifying as a negotiator to that level. I have previously worked as a police negotiator attached to a team

Witness: _____

Signature: _____


Steven MORGAN

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within the Sydney metropolitan area, and I am currently a negotiator attached to the Southern Region, New South Wales Police Force. Throughout my career as a negotiator I have attended numerous high-risk incidents, including many suicide/self-harm interventions.

7. On the evening of Monday, 11 February 2013; and again more recently, I viewed an ABC television network presentation on the 'Australian Story' program. The program was titled 'On the Precipice', and it directly related to the death of Scott JOHNSON in 1988.
8. During that program, a person described as an author and historian Mr. Gary WOTHERSPOON commented: ***"Why would a man who was going to commit suicide, who had had a wonderful morning, solved a problem, take off his clothes, leave them in a neat pile and jump off the cliff?"*** The comment seemed to question whether a person who may be contemplating or intending suicide does would remove their clothing in preparation for that act.
9. From my experience as a police negotiator of many years standing, I disagree with that assertion.
10. I have also accessed and viewed Police COPS event **E 8400427**, dated 10/02/2000, which relates to a suicide intervention that I personally attended, as a metropolitan-based police negotiator, on the evening of Thursday, 10 February 2000.
11. On that afternoon, I was called to Hawkesbury Lookout, adjacent to Hawkesbury Road Winmalee; in the Blue Mountains.
12. Upon my attendance there that evening, I saw an adult male standing outside the safety fence at the top of the cliff edge. The male was completely naked at the time, although at that stage this didn't seem to bother him. His clothing had been discarded nearby. I joined a female negotiator who was already present and speaking with the male, and I subsequently engaged in conversations with that person.
13. Two further negotiators later attended the scene also, and after about two to three hours of continuous negotiations, the male person was persuaded to return back over the safety fence

Witness:



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Signature:



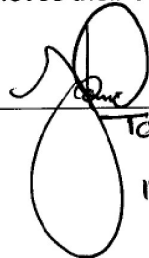
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve Morgan', positioned above a horizontal line. Below the line, the name 'Steven MORGAN' is printed in black capital letters.

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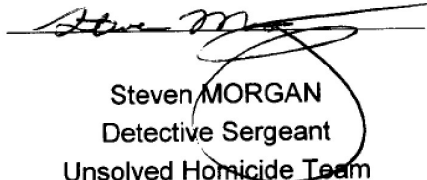
where he was further spoken with. He met with ambulance personnel who were also in attendance and was conveyed by them to Nepean Hospital for assessment.

14. In recent weeks, I have conducted research using the WebCops searching system and also by manually checking completed job sheets at the Negotiation Unit, State Protection Group. Unfortunately, the COPS system only commenced from 1994; so I have been unable to access data for the period prior to that time.
15. Having checked all suicide/self-harm incidents with the word 'naked' mentioned in the narrative on the WebCops database for the period (post-COPS) 1994 to 31/12/1999 and 01/01/2000 to 31/12/2006, I am able to provide the following analysis.
16. From that period of over twelve years as captured, there were some 113 recorded incidents where the (usually adult) male or female subject has threatened or committed self-harm or suicide whilst in a state of total undress. The methods of threatened or actual instances of self-harm or suicide included many instances where the subject was armed with a weapon, usually an edged weapon such as a knife; but there were also several instances where an unarmed subject had jumped or threatened to jump from a considerable height. Some of these subjects had in fact jumped from a height, resulting in their death.
17. Excluding those above instances where the subject was found to have been naked in a bath, bed or similar location where their state of undress might be considered 'normal', there remained some 80 such incidents recorded over the twelve year period captured.
18. In consideration of the above recorded facts, I am of the opinion that whilst it may not be a common phenomenon, it is certainly not rare or unheard of that a person with suicidal intentions removes their clothing in preparation for carrying out, or threatening to carry out such an act.

Witness: _____


Tamer KILANI
DSC
12/12/2016

Signature: _____


Steven MORGAN
Detective Sergeant
Unsolved Homicide Team
12 December 2016

Witness: _____

Signature: _____

Steven MORGAN