INTERVIEW WITH DCI PAMELA YOUNG

Outside the NSW Coroner's Court, Glebe, NSW

On Monday, 13 April 2015

INTERVIEWER: Can we get a reaction to today's decision by the coroner, Michael Barnes?

DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes. The NSW Police are very pleased about the decision today. We're very much looking forward to having the inquest.

 From March last year we were hoping that the coroner would consider this, and we wrote to him in March last year to bring it to his mind. It's very good today that that's happened and we very much look forward to the public of New South Wales getting to scrutinise the facts of the matter.

INTERVIEWER: Counsel assisting the Johnson family, John Agius, suggested in court today that police had been resisting a third inquest and were actually calling for the court to reject the application.

DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Mmm. I found that quite amusing. It's certainly not based in any fact, so I'm not sure why he used that line. Maybe he thought it might be interesting to the waiting media. It's certainly not based in the - in the fact, and it's never been our position to resist it. So there you go.

INTERVIEWER: Are you actually saying that you called for a third inquest?

 DCI PAMELA YOUNG: We were the ones who went to the coroner in the first instance, to put his mind to that one might be necessary, if he considered that there was fresh evidence, and it appears that he does, so that's good. We - we did that.

 In fact, the first reaction from Scott's family was to be quite cross at us for having approached the coroner without consulting them first, and I got the impression from their first responses that they weren't ready to have an inquest considered at that stage, without - without having their go-ahead, I suppose. I certainly interpreted it like that.

INTERVIEWER: We also hear in court that after your two-year investigation - that you have suggested that a new inquest will deliver no different finding to that which was established in 2012 by Deputy State Coroner Carmel Forbes.

Can you tell us how you arrived at that conclusion, given we haven't had another inquest yet?

DCI PAMELA YOUNG: Yes. I am just basing that on my experience and my thorough knowledge of the brief. I believe there are some new pieces of information and potentially some evidence that the coroner could be interested in, but, nonetheless, none of it is direct - directly relates to Scott being murdered. So that is why I have that position of an open finding is potentially the most appropriate finding. But, of course, that's up to the coroner. It's not impossible that it be - perhaps go back towards suicide, either, or misadventure. Any of those things are possible as well.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you very much.

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