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The New South Wales Police Force recognises and understands the ongoing frustration and sorrow of those families who still don't know the circumstances of their loved ones' deaths.

These families have endured many years of uncertainty. They deserve closure, and we are doing everything we can to provide it for them.

Since the beginning of 2013, the NSWPF's Homicide Squad has invested a huge amount of time reviewing these cases.

With respect to Strike Force Macnamir, the re-investigation into the death of Scott Johnson, two of the Unsolved Homicide Team's most experienced detectives, Detective Chief Inspector Pamela Young and Detective Sergeant Penny Brown, were selected to lead this case. Between them, these two officers have more than 50 years of policing experience.

Since February 2013 they have worked tirelessly on this investigation, putting in thousands of hours and gathering as much evidence as possible in an effort to determine how Scott Johnson died.

Strike Force Macnamir recently concluded and, in order to have it independently assessed, the Homicide Squad has asked the NSW Coroner to review their investigation. A 445 page report, prepared by Detective Chief Inspector Young, was submitted to the Coroner in June 2014.

With respect to the 30 potential gay-hate homicides identified by Ms Sue Thompson, the Unsolved Homicide Team has conducted an assessment on all 30 cases, as well as one other case which was not on Ms Thompson's list.

Of the 31 cases, the UHT found that two had been solved with no evidence of a gay hate bias.

Of the remaining 29 cases, eight were found to have evidence or indications of potential gay hate bias. At this stage, detectives have been unable to substantiate any gay hate bias motivation in the other matters; however, it is important to note that police have not come to any conclusions on these cases. Police would be keen to hear from any person that may have information relating to these matters that can help progress our investigations.

The Homicide Squad's Unsolved Homicide Team has one of the largest caseloads in the country with more than 700 unsolved cases on its books. It continues to make breakthroughs – in the last month alone, the Team has made arrests in relation to a murder in 1973 and another in 1990.

Again, the NSW Police Force understands that the families and friends of these men continue to endure ongoing pain, suffering and frustration. We want to solve these cases and provide these families with closure, and encourage anyone who believes they have evidence that can help us to contact Crime Stoppers.

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