

January 9, 2013

To: Detective Senior Inspector Lehmann
From: Steve and Rebecca Johnson for the Scott Johnson family
Re: The family's concerns that a Coronial recommendation for "further investigation" of Scott Russell Johnson's death has been dismissed and ignored

Dear Inspector Lehmann:

On behalf of Scott Johnson's surviving family, thank you for meeting with my and Scott's sister Rebecca and our family representative Daniel Glick during their recent Sydney trip. We appreciate that you reviewed Scott's case in advance of your usual timelines and that you have applied for a reward to generate community engagement in solving this crime.

We are sure you will not be surprised to hear how disappointing it was to learn that Scott's case received a "zero" solvability rating after your recent review. Our impression is that your review was based on an evaluation of the original case file, and that the "zero" rating was based primarily on the dearth of forensic and other evidence in that file, rather than as a result of any new or "further investigation" as recommended by the Coroner on 27 June 2012. We understood your definition of a zero rating to mean that Unsolved Homicide will make no effort to investigate Scott's death unless new material arrives on your doorstep.

Perhaps it is your view that your unit was not the correct place for the Coroner to refer Scott's death for further investigation. We doubt very much that the Coroner intended that the original case file be merely re-read and reviewed and that this would constitute further investigation. If you believe that there is a Police unit or government body that would be more suitable for such further investigation, then we would appreciate your advising us of this so that we may advise the Coroner.

We, however, believe the attached report contains sufficient new evidence that requires "further investigation in accordance with police procedures and protocols" (Coroner C Forbes). We hope this report provides enough new material for you to reconsider.

We recognize and share your frustration with the lack of evidence in the original case file. However, we respectfully do not share the opinion that the police's cursory initial investigation precludes a meaningful investigation today. As is reflected in the attached report, which adds substantially to information the family has shared with NSW authorities and led to Deputy State Coroner Carmel Forbes' June 27, 2012 decision to overturn the 1989 suicide verdict, we believe there are a number of credible new leads that require police resources and attention.

We continue to hope that the publicity surrounding the reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Scott's killer(s) and the February broadcast of the *Australian Story* episode on the ABC will shake loose even more new information and provoke a real investigation into Scott's violent death and shed light on other unsolved homicides from that era.

As you requested during the December 6, 2012 meeting, we are formally sharing new information obtained since the Coronial "open finding" ruling in June, which remanded Scott's case to your office for "further investigation." In this report, we detail new, specific, credible and viable investigative leads about individuals who were potentially aware of or directly involved in Scott's and/or other gay men's violent deaths in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

We strongly believe the information we present here contains important new investigative leads that no member of the NSW police has considered or pursued, both with regard to Scott's death and other unsolved homicides. We believe emphatically that it is within police's purview to pursue these leads – and not the family's role or responsibility.

Thank you again for your attention to Scott's case. Please let either of us know if you have any questions, comments or need clarification. We would appreciate it if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter and report before January 25th.

Sincerely,
Steve and Rebecca Johnson