



[Sensitive: NSW Government]

Justice

B17/2497

Briefing to Minister Grant

DOC035744-01

## Operational Travel Request – Detective Senior Constables Kilani and Chebl – New Zealand

### Purpose: Seeking decision

<b>Topic</b>	Two detectives from Unsolved Homicide Team to travel to New Zealand
<b>Key Analysis</b>	Approval is sought for two NSW Police Force officers to travel to New Zealand to gather evidence in respect of three suspicious deaths between 1985 and 1989 – SF Neiwand and SF MacNamir.

### Recommendations

The Minister approve the overseas travel request for:

- i. Detective Constable Tamer KILANI and
- ii. Detective Constable Michael CHEBL

to undertake operational travel to New Zealand.

The Minister sign the attached advice from the NSWPF (**Tab A**), authorising a total travel cost of \$2618.79 AUD.

### Timeframes

Intended departure date is **2 June**.

### Key reasons

#### **Witness statements are needed in connection with possible 'gay hate' murders from the 1980's.**

Two witnesses in New Zealand have agreed to give formal statements to assist in the investigation of three cases of suspected or possible homicide (one is a missing person) from the late 1980's. The Unsolved Homicide Team is investigating the offences, which may have been motivated by hatred of gay men.

Police will interview a witness in Victoria who can assist with establishing the last known movements of missing person Ross Bradley Warren on 22 July 1989. Her evidence could assist in investigating inconsistencies in versions of events given by known persons of interest.

#### **One of the cases is the high profile death of Scott Johnson**

Mr Johnson's death was classed as a suicide, but many, including his family, <sup>believe</sup> ~~believe~~ he was the victim of a hate crime. A fresh coronial inquiry has been established and is due to recommence on 13 June. Police have been requested to obtain a statement from a witness who claims that a man he was in a relationship with in 2003 had admitted throwing gay males off cliffs in the Bondi area.

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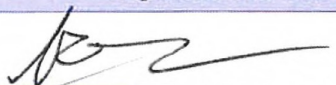
**Context**

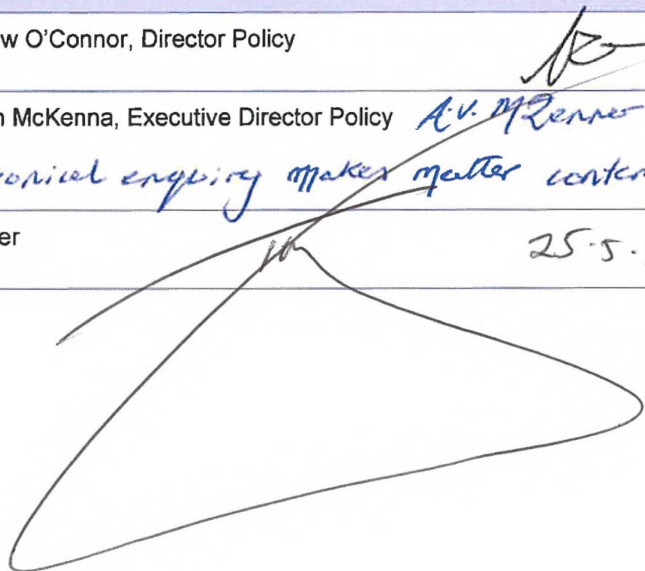
The Deputy Commissioner Field Operations has approved allocation of the funds to pay for the travel. The Commissioner of Police supports the request.

**Attachments**

Attachment number	Name of attachment
A	NSWPF advice

**Approval**

Position	Signature and date
Andrew O'Connor, Director Policy	 28.05.17
Adrian McKenna, Executive Director Policy	<i>A.V. McKenna Supported.</i>
	<i>Coronial enquiry makes matter contemporary. 25/5/17</i>
Minister	<i>25.5.17</i>





**URGENT** SENSITIVE LEGAL **URGENT** D/2017/434091

**ISSUE:**

Approval sought for operational overseas travel by Detective Senior Constables Kilani and Chebl, SCC Homicide Squad, Unsolved Homicide Team. Evidence sought from New Zealand to assist the investigation into the deaths of 3 persons in 1985 and 1989.

**BACKGROUND:**

See attached report by applicant – **Annexure A**.

**COMMENT:**


1. The application for operational overseas travel is supported by the applicant's Command.
2. New Zealand authorities have granted approval for police to act in an operational capacity and carry out activities as outlined within the applicant's report.
3. No formal government applications are required; assistance is given via police-to-police basis.
4. The estimated cost of travel is ~~\$3162.11~~<sup>2618.79</sup> (AUD). This cost is inclusive of economy air fare, accommodation, meals and incidentals relevant to the NSW applicant. (see attached cost sheet)

## Attached are:

- A. Travel report by applicant, supported by Command
- B. Operational Overseas Travel application form

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Field Operations) allocate funds from the Overseas Extraditions and Inquires Account No. 3003 to cover the costs of the travel - approximately ~~\$3162.11~~<sup>2618.79</sup> (AUD).
2. That approval is given by the Commissioner of Police for the applicant to travel to New Zealand.
3. That approval is given by the NSW Minister for Police for the applicant to travel to New Zealand.

  
 John Torres  
 Senior Constable  
 16 May 2017



**SENSITIVE LEGAL**

1. Coordinator, State-wide Legal Advice Section *Supported* *K. J. [Signature]*  
*K. Crook*  
*5/5/17 16/5/17*

2. Manager, Operational Legal Advice Unit  
*Supported. No legal issues with this request.*

3. *AJ* Commander, Police Prosecutions Command  
*Supported.* *[Signature]*  
*I. DICKSON* *16/5/17*  
*ACh/Supt*  
*DEANEY*  
*16/5/17*

4. Deputy Commissioner (Specialist Operations) of Police

PPC advice supported. *[Signature]* C. Burn  
17/5/17

5. Deputy Commissioner (Field Operations) of Police

**Funds Allocated / Not Allocated**

*✓* *[Signature]* *22/5/17.*  
6. *Deep Investigations + CT*  
*Supported.* *[Signature]*  
*D.W. Hudson 22/6.*

6. Commissioner of Police

**Travel Supported / Not Supported**

*[Signature]* *Fulw*



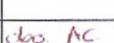
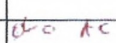








7. Minister for Police

**Travel Approved / Not Approved**

*[Large Signature]*  
*25-5-17*



### OPERATIONAL OVERSEAS TRAVEL APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL DETAILS	Applicant 1	Applicant 2
Name	Tamer KILANI	Michael CHEBL
Position/Rank	Detective Senior Constable	Detective Senior Constable
Unit/Branch	Homicide Squad	Homicide Squad
Address	Level 8B Police Headquarters, 1 Charles St, Parramatta.	Level 8B Police Headquarters, 1 Charles St, Parramatta.
Contacts: Phone nos, Mobile/Fax, e-mail.	[REDACTED]	
Signature		
TRIP DETAILS (see also attached itinerary)		
Departure and return dates	Departure: 02/06/2017 Return: 04/06/2017	Departure: 02/06/2017 Return: 04/06/2017
Countries to be visited	New Zealand	New Zealand
FUNDING AND COSTS		
Airfares (including class of travel)*	\$464.97 (Economy)	\$464.97 (Economy)
Accommodation*	\$408.00	\$408.00
Meals and incidentals*	\$311.65 + \$249.55 (Vehicle Rental)	\$311.65
TOTAL*	\$1434.17	\$1184.62
Source of funds* - cost centre number	3003	3003
APPROVAL (to be completed by Chain of Command)		
Supported by (Assistant Commissioner or equivalent)	 AC JENKINS W.I. Best 16.5.17 H/Althorp AS/Off office - S...	 AC JENKINS W.I. Best 16.5.17 H/Althorp
Supported by the Deputy Commissioner	 Hudson	 Hudson
Commissioner	 Fulw	 Fulw
Minister	 25.5.17	 25.5.17
Travel Register noted		
Duty Status (Office use only)		

B



## OPERATIONAL OVERSEAS TRAVEL APPLICATION FORM

Applicants must complete each of the following sections except those marked *If Applicable*.

### 1 Objectives, itinerary and background

#### Strike Force NEIWAND

The objective of the proposed overseas travel is to interview and obtain an evidentiary statement from witness Amanda Jane EVANS, born [REDACTED] EVANS lives in Mount Eden, Auckland, New Zealand. The statement relates to Strike Force NEIWAND is an investigation into the suspicious deaths of three males in Sydney's eastern suburbs between 1985 and 1989. One of these males was Ross Bradley WARREN, who was last seen in the early hours of July 22 1989. WARREN's body has never been located. It is believed he may have been met with foul play and subsequently murdered. Investigators are currently focussing on the last known movements of WARREN and, in doing so, have contacted witnesses who knew WARREN. This contact has enabled investigators to a gain a greater understanding of WARREN's lifestyle and his intended plans on the evening of his disappearance. Persons of interest have been identified and have supplied police with a version of events surrounding WARREN's disappearance. Investigators have identified inconsistencies in these versions, with this requiring further examination. The witness, EVANS has spoken with police by phone and supplied information via email. Her information assists in establishing that inconsistencies identified in the versions supplied by the persons of interest are further explored.

The new evidence to be obtained from EVANS' statement is vital to the investigation. Taking the statement in person will allow investigators a greater opportunity to obtain a more detailed statement.

#### Strike Force MACNAMIR

On 10 December 1988, the body of Scott JOHNSON, born 27 November 1961, was located at the bottom of the cliffs at North Head, Manly. Initial investigations concluded that no foul play existed and attributed his death to suicide. Strike Force MACNAMIR was established by the Homicide Squad in 2013 to re-investigate the death and establish if JOHNSON had in fact met with foul play. The investigation is currently part heard at inquest before the NSW State Coroner with a recommencement date of 13 June 2017. On 17 February 2017, New Zealand National [REDACTED] 194, born [REDACTED], sent an email to an associate informing her of him being in a previous relationship with a male in 2003 who had allegedly made admissions of throwing homosexual males off cliffs in the Bondi Area. A similar message was posted in 2016 on a Facebook page named Justice for Scott Johnson. This information became known by Strike Force MACNAMIR, who spoke with [REDACTED] 194 by phone [REDACTED] 194 informed police that he prepared to meet with investigators in Auckland, New Zealand and supply a formal statement. The Crown Solicitors assisting the State



Coroners have subsequently issued a request requesting a statement be obtained from [ 194 ].

As with EVANS, the information to be supplied by [ 194 ] is relevant to the Strike Force MACNAMIR investigation and will aid in establishing the truth surrounding Scott JOHNSON's death.

Offence of murder, under s.18 of the NSW Crimes Act 1900 carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

## **2 Applicants**

It is requested that Detective Senior Constable Michael CHEBL (Officer in Charge) and Detective Senior Constable Tamer KILANI are granted authorisation for travel to New Zealand to obtain statements from Amanda EVANS and [ 194 ]. Detective Senior Constables CHEBL and KILANI have an intimate knowledge of the NEIWAND investigation and obtaining the statement in person is crucial to ensure that adequate evidence is gathered. An aid memoir has been prepared to assist with obtaining the [ 194 ] statement.

## **3 Financial issues**

Funding for significant major overseas inquiries are available from the office of the Deputy Commissioner (Field Operations) - Cost Centre 3003.

## **4 Compliance with international protocols**

Senior Constable John TORRES from the NSW Police Prosecutions Major Incident Legal Advice Section and Canberra based New Zealand Police Liaison Officer, Detective Inspector Tom FITZGERALD have advised that a Mutual Assistance Request to obtain a statement in New Zealand is not required.

On 10/04/2017, Detective FITZGERALD authorised New South Wales to obtain the witness statement in New Zealand. As requested, DSC KILANI sent an email to Detective FITZGERALD on this same date detailing the planned enquires to be conducted in New Zealand.

## **5 Health, safety and insurance**

Nil vaccination or disease protection requirements required.

The destination has been assessed for security issues via the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website. At present there are no security issues of concern for travelling NSW Police.

I understand that Treasury's Managed Fund provides medical costs up to \$1 million coverage for the loss of personal effect and membership of SOS Assistance Australasia. NSW Government travel agents are aware of the details. Separate private insurance is only required for any personal leave component.



**6 Leave (if applicable)**

Recreational leave is not applicable in this application.

Should there be a need to extend travel due to unforeseen circumstance following departure, approval in writing will be sought from a senior officer with appropriate delegation.

**7 Attachments (please list all attachments)**

- Costing of travel
- Proposed itinerary
- Copies of passport details for applicants.

ANNEX "A"PROPOSED ITINERARY

The proposed itinerary (if granted) for the overseas travel would be as follows:

Day 1 – Friday 02/06/2017

Fly approx 3.5 hours from Sydney to Auckland, New Zealand.

Depart Sydney: 9:25am. (EK 418)

Arrive Auckland: 2:35pm

Collect hire car from Avis Rental

Accommodation in Auckland

Grand Millennium Auckland

71 Mayoral Drive, Auckland

Ph: +64 9-366 3000

Day 2 – Saturday 03/06/2017

Meet with witness Amanda Jane EVANS and obtain statement.

Meet witness [REDACTED] 194 ] and obtain statement.

2<sup>nd</sup> night's accommodation at the Grand Millennium.

Day 3 – Sunday 04/06/2017

Return Avis hire car

Return flight Auckland to Sydney - approx 3 hours.

Depart Auckland: 9:00am. (VA 7403)

Arrive Sydney: 10:35am



**ANNEX "B"****TRAVEL COSTING**

The proposed costing would consist of the following;

**Airfares: - (Quoted through FCM Travel Solutions)**

Detectives CHEBL and KILANI:

Return flights Sydney, Australia to Auckland, New Zealand - \$1153.54

Total airfare cost: \$929.94

**Meals and Incidentals:**

Travelling allowance and incidentals (2 x Investigators) being:

2 x part days & 1 full day at \$311.65 ea \$623.30

**Accommodation Quote:**

2 nights Auckland Accommodation  
(2 x Investigators & 2 rooms) being: \$816.00

**AVIS Car Rental:**

Collect 02/06/2017 & return 04/06/2017: \$249.55

The estimated total cost is \$2618.79