



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

6 September 2023

Bianca Comina

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Comina,

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

I assist the Honourable Justice John Sackar (“the Commissioner”) in the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes (“the Inquiry”).

The Inquiry

On 13 April 2022, the Governor, by Letters Patent, issued a commission to the Commissioner to inquire into and report on historical LGBTIQ hate crimes. Specifically, the Letters Patent require the Commissioner to inquire into and report to the Governor and Premier on the following matters:

- A. The manner and cause of death in all cases that remain unsolved from the 88 deaths or suspected deaths of men potentially motivated by gay hate bias that were considered by Strike Force Parrabell; and
- B. The manner and cause of death in all unsolved suspected hate crime deaths in New South Wales that occurred between 1970 and 2010 where:
 - i) The victim was a member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community; and
 - ii) The death was the subject of a previous investigation by the NSW Police Force.

The Commissioner is required to report on the above matters by **15 December 2023**. Furthermore, in conducting the Inquiry, the Commissioner is directed to have regard to the “findings of previous inquiries and reports” (see Paragraph C of the Letters Patent).

A copy of the full Letters Patent and additional information about the Inquiry is available on the Inquiry’s website: www.specialcommission.nsw.gov.au.

Public Hearing 2

The second public hearing of the Inquiry (“Public Hearing 2”) is examining the ways in which the NSW Police Force (“NSWPF”) has approached issues relating to “bias crimes” and “hate crimes” from 1970 to present,

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including the investigations conducted by Strike Forces Parrabell, Macnamir and Neiwand. I understand you were involved in the investigation in relation to Strike Force Neiwand.

Public Hearing 2 has been conducted in several stages of hearings in December 2022, February-March 2023, and April-May 2023.

Public Hearing 2 is listed for two additional weeks of hearing scheduled to commence on Monday, 18 September 2023 ("the September hearing").

Material before the Inquiry

On 7 June 2023, Counsel Assisting the Inquiry filed written submissions in relation to the issues explored in Public Hearing 2. Strike Force Neiwand is addressed at Part D (paragraphs [504]-[782]) of Counsel Assisting's submissions.

I also draw your attention to Exhibit 6 before the Inquiry, which comprises a bundle of material which has been tendered into evidence during the course of Public Hearing 2.

Further, on 27 June 2023, written submissions were filed on behalf of Sergeant Geoffrey Steer. On 28 June 2023, written submissions were filed on behalf of the Commissioner of Police and Mr Michael Willing. Strike Force Neiwand is addressed at Part D (paragraphs [235]-[453]) of the submissions on behalf of the Commissioner of Police.

Copies of the parties' written submissions and Exhibit 6 are available on the Inquiry's website: <https://www.specialcommission.nsw.gov.au/hearings/public-hearing-2-commencing-5-december-2022/>.

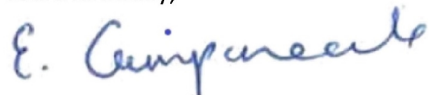
Opportunity to provide evidence and submissions to the Inquiry

The Inquiry does not request that you provide a statement in relation to your involvement in Strike Force Neiwand.

Nevertheless, in light of the submissions referred to above, the Inquiry has determined that it is appropriate for you to have the opportunity to file a statement and/or make written submissions as to the issues raised in Public Hearing 2 that are relevant to you. Should you wish to file a statement, please do so by **15 September 2023** by email to enzo.camporeale@specialcommission.nsw.gov.au. Should you wish to make any written submissions, please do so by **5 October 2023** by email to enzo.camporeale@specialcommission.nsw.gov.au.

Please do not hesitate to contact Enzo Camporeale on 0498 484 133 or at enzo.camporeale@specialcommission.nsw.gov.au if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Enzo Camporeale

Director, Legal

Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry