

## STATEMENT

<b>In the matter of:</b>	Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes
<b>Place:</b>	Sydney
<b>Date:</b>	6 October 2023

<b>Name:</b>	Strath Gordon Chief of Public Affairs & Communications Australian Olympic Committee	<b>Tel. No:</b> <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span>
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### STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 66 years of age.
3. I am currently the Chief of Public Affairs & Communications at the Australian Olympic Committee. I have held this position since January 2018. Prior to this, I was employed by the New South Wales Police Force as the Director of Public Affairs from 25 September 2006 to 12 January 2018.
4. I have previously given a statement in the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes (**Inquiry**) dated 5 September 2023 and is marked with the document ID **NPL.9000.0028.0001 (First Statement)**. My First Statement was in response to a letter I received from the inquiry dated 21 August 2023. This statement should be read with my First Statement.
5. At the time of signing this statement, I have been shown a zip file of electronic documents marked with electronic document IDs in the format '**NPL.XXXX.XXXX.XXXX**'. Where I refer to a document in this statement, I refer to it by its electronic document ID.

3455-2547-1527v4

Witness: [REDACTED]

Todd Day  
Chief Operating Officer  
Australian Olympic Committee  
6 October 2023

Signature: [REDACTED]

Strath Gordon  
Chief of Public Affairs &  
Communications  
Australian Olympic Committee  
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**LATELINE INTERVIEW**

6. In my First Statement, I outline my recollection of former Chief Inspector Pamela Young's involvement in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Lateline program episode 'A Third inquest ordered into cliff fall death of a young man' which aired on 13 April 2015 (**Lateline Interview**).
7. The purpose of this statement is to address emails that I drafted and sent to myself approximately 1 week after the Lateline Interview. The first email is dated 21 April 2015 and marked with the document ID **NPL.0138.0004.5545 (21 April 2015 email)** and the second email is dated 22 April 2015 and marked with the document ID **NPL.0138.0004.7119 (22 April 2015 email)**. The 22 April 2015 email is referred to in my First Statement at paragraph 17.
8. In the 21 April 2015 email, I referenced the fact that Detective Chief Inspector Pamela Young had participated in a studio interview with a reporter from the ABC. The passage containing that reference is set out below:

*On the day of the inquest the [sic] was no further discussion on media other than PY telling Georgie that she had done no media because they had left by the time she came out. However at five pm that day PY informed MW that she had done the studio interview with no mention of the content nor any mention of the doorstep exclusive she gave Emma which was on the ABC TV news that night.*

9. "PY" is a reference to Detective Chief Inspector Pamela Young and "MW" is a reference to then Detective Superintendent Michael Willing. The reference to Mr Willing being informed at 5.00 pm on the 13 April 2015 that Detective Chief Inspector Pamela Young had done a studio interview is incorrect. The reference to a studio interview in the 21 April 2015 email reflects an error that I made when drafting the email to myself. I believe I mistakenly conflated my memories of what I was told at the time (that Detective Chief Inspector Pamela Young would appear on Lateline, which I had assumed at the time would have been grabs from outside of the Court as I had not approved a formal in studio interview outlined in my

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First Statement at [15]) and what I came to know once the Lateline Interview aired and when I wrote this note eight days later (i.e., that Detective Chief Inspector Pamela Young had conducted a sit down interview).

10. I am confident the reference to the "studio interview" in my 21 April 2015 email is an error (as explained in paragraph 9 above) because at the time the Lateline Interview aired, I did not watch it. Had I been told that Detective Chief Inspector Pamela Young intended to participate in a studio interview, I would certainly have watched the Lateline Interview. This is because I did not approve any interview and I would have wanted to know what was said. It would have been central to my role and responsibilities to be across the content of any such interview.
11. In paragraph [15] of my First Statement I state that:

*On 13 April 2015, the ABC aired the Lateline interview with Detective Chief Inspector Young regarding the investigation into the death of Scott Johnson. That was the first time that I became aware that Detective Chief Inspector Young was planning to appear on Lateline.*

12. As noted in paragraph [10] of this statement, I did not watch the Lateline Interview. I became aware that Detective Chief Inspector Young gave a studio interview on Lateline when I received an email from Kenneth Finch on 13 April 2015 at 10.24 pm that stated, "So – *the question is who organised – and approved Pam Young's interview with Emma Alberici? What was [the] purpose of it?*" I recall I read this email the next morning. If I had read this email the night it was received I would have called Georgina Wells (who was then Media Supervisor for State Crime Command) or Detective Superintendent Michael Willing to seek an explanation as I did not approve a studio interview.
13. I was not aware that Detective Chief Inspector Young gave a studio interview to Lateline prior to reading this email. On 13 April 2015, at 6.18 pm, I received an email from Ms Wells. A copy of this email chain is at document ID **NPL.0138.0002.3238**. The email stated:

*In addition to the media update re: SF Macnamir, Det Ch Insp Pam Young spoke to Emma Alberici from ABC Lateline on camera today. The*

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*reporter also spoke with Steve Johnson. Both are to appear on tonight's  
 Lateline.*

14. I recall that when I received this email I read the words "on camera" and understood that to be a reference to the approved doorstep statement to media representatives indicating that the NSWPF welcomed the inquest into the death of Scott Johnson and not a studio interview on Lateline.
15. On 14 April 2015, I responded to Mr Finch's email noting that I understood that backgrounders were to be conducted with Daniel Box from *The Australian* and a journalist from ABC. In that email I stated that I did not recall any discussion about an interview with Lateline. A copy of this email chain is at document ID **NPL.0138.0002.2771**.
16. I have revisited the contents of my First Statement since reviewing Ms Wells' email on 13 April 2015, Mr Finch's email on 13 April 2015 and my response on 14 April 2015, my 21 April 2015 email, and my 22 April 2015 email. I confirm that all other aspects of my First Statement, apart from those addressed in this Statement, are correct.

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