



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190B

## STATEMENT OF POLICE

In the matter of: Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crimes  
 Place: Sydney, New South Wales, Australia  
 Date: 15 September 2023

Name: **I446** Tel. No: [REDACTED]  
 Rank: Detective Sergeant  
 Station/Unit: Child Protection Registry, Sex Crimes Squad, State Crime Command

## 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 46 years of age.
3. In this statement, where I refer to documents I also include their document ID number for identification purposes, in the form **SCOI.XXXXX\_XXXX** and **NPL.XXXX.XXXX.XXXX**.
4. I make this statement in response to letters I received from the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes (**Inquiry**) dated 22 August 2023 (**22 August Letter**) and 25 August 2023 (**25 August Letter**). The 25 August Letter enclosed a summons to attend the Inquiry on 18 September 2023.
5. The 22 August Letter noted that second public hearing of the Inquiry (**Public Hearing 2**) is examining the ways in which the New South Wales Police Force (**NSWPF**) has

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approached issues relating to “bias crime” and “hate crime” from 1970 to present, including the investigations conducted by Strike Forces Parrabell, Macnamir and Neiwand. The 22 August Letter further noted that sections of the submissions of Counsel Assisting the Inquiry concern my involvement in the matters currently being examined by the Inquiry in Public Hearing 2.

6. The 22 August Letter identified sections of the submissions of Counsel Assisting the Inquiry (**CA submissions**) and the Commissioner of NSW Police (**CoP submissions**) that had been identified as relevant to me and invited me to provide this statement to the Inquiry.
7. Unless otherwise stated, I make this statement based on:
- (a) my review of relevant records held by the NSWPF;
  - (b) information known to me;
  - (c) information provided to me at my request by appropriate members of the NSWPF; and
  - (d) my experience as a detective.

**Structure of this statement**

8. The structure of my statement is as follows:
- (a) **Section A:** provides background on my role, qualifications and policing experience;
  - (b) **Section B:** sets out my involvement in Strike Force Macnamir;
  - (c) **Section C:** describes the investigative steps involved in Strike Force Macnamir;
  - (d) **Section D:** describes my views and attitudes towards the Strike Force Macnamir investigation and outcome of that investigation; and

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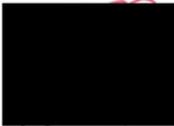
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- (e) **Section E:** outlines the extent of my involvement in Operation Taradale, Strike Force Neiwand and Strike Force Parrabell.

**SECTION A: MY ROLE, QUALIFICATIONS AND POLICING EXPERIENCE**

9. I am a Detective Sergeant in the Child Protection Registry (**CPR**) in the Sex Crimes Squad, State Crime Command in the NSWPF. I have held this position since February 2023.
10. My current role is the Quality Assurance Officer in the CPR. I am responsible for determining the registrable status of persons convicted of sexual and violent offences against children, as well as the reporting periods in line with the *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000* (NSW). My responsibilities in this role include responding to legal inquiries from solicitors and registrable persons, liaising with both internal and external stakeholders, and ensuring team members in the CPR comply with relevant legislation, policies and procedures. I also provide advice to the NSWPF on a range of CPR quality assurance related issues. I have one staff member who reports directly to me, and I work closely with the other sections within the CPR, such as the Training and Psychology units as well as the officers who manage the administrative role of the CPR.
11. In 1999, I graduated from Macquarie University with a Bachelor of Social Science.
12. I have been a sworn officer of the NSWPF since attesting from the Police Academy in May 2002 where I commenced General Duties at Burwood Local Area Command (**LAC**). In July 2003, I transferred to the Burwood Anti-Theft Unit at Five Dock Police Station and, in January 2005, I commenced Criminal Investigation duties within the Burwood LAC Detectives Office.
13. In May 2007, I was promoted to the rank of Senior Constable. In October 2007, I successfully completed the Detective Education Program and was designated as a Detective.

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14. In February 2008, I commenced working at the Asian Crime Squad, State Crime Command. In 2009, I successfully completed a Bachelor of Policing (Investigations). In April 2010, I transferred to the Sex Crimes Squad where I worked for five years until March 2015. I subsequently moved to the Unsolved Homicide Team (**UHT**) and remained in that role for eight years. In February 2023, I was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant, and commenced my current role in Quality Assurance in the CPR.
15. Between around April 2015 and November 2017, I worked on Strike Force Macnamir (**SF Macnamir**). During this time, I also worked on other investigations, such as Strike Force Skarratt and Strike Force Hildebrand which were investigations that my team had carriage of. My team was made up of a Detective Sergeant (Team Leader) and approximately five Senior Constables, including myself.
16. Whilst working in the UHT, if I was allocated as a resource to an investigation managed by e@gle.i, I would have some level of visibility over that investigation. However, the extent of visibility I had was dependent on the role I was assigned to. E@gle.i is the NSWPF's online case management platform where case files and other documents and records related to current and previous investigations are uploaded and managed.
17. I do not recall having access to e@gle.i for Operation Taradale, Strike Force Neiwand or Strike Force Parrabell, nor can I remember having any involvement with those investigations.

**SECTION B: INVOLVEMENT AND ROLE IN STRIKE FORCE MACNAMIR**

18. I became involved in SF Macnamir in about April 2015. At this time, I was a Senior Constable, and one of the junior members of the team working on SF Macnamir.
19. I understand that, before I became involved in SF Macnamir, the Officer in Charge (**OIC**) was Detective Chief Inspector Pamela Young (**DCI Young**) (as she then was). I do not know if DCI Young made substantive decisions in relation to this investigation, but I recall being under the impression that she did due to what I observed of her role and the extent

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of her involvement in the investigation. DCI Young was removed from SF Macnamir in or around May 2015, shortly after she appeared in the Lateline interview in around mid-April 2015, which was approximately a fortnight after I joined the UHT and became involved in SF Macnamir in a limited capacity.

20. Up until about May 2015 when DCI Young was removed from SF Macnamir, I had a limited role in the investigation. I was new to the UHT and, at that time, my role comprised mainly discrete investigative tasks assigned to me on an ad hoc basis. For example, in the time before DCI Young was removed from the investigation, I was given tasks, including of an administrative nature, such as back capturing and uploading documents onto e@gle.i, which would have likely been at the request of Detective Sergeant Penelope Brown (**DS Brown**) for SF Macnamir. As mentioned above, during that time, I was also working on investigations outside of SF Macnamir.
21. After DCI Young was removed from the investigation being undertaken by SF Macnamir, I became more involved. From that time, my role was to assist DS Brown, who was at that time the OIC of the investigation, and I became one of the main people assisting her. DS Brown would make decisions in respect of the investigation, and I recall she included me in some of these decision-making processes from time to time. DS Brown would task me with different things throughout the investigation.
22. Towards the end of my involvement in SF Macnamir, it would be accurate to describe my role as second officer in charge. However, as set out above, that was not my role when I first became involved in the investigation.

**SECTION C: INVESTIGATIVE STEPS INVOLVED IN STRIKE FORCE MACNAMIR**

23. During the course of SF Macnamir, we would occasionally receive information from Crime Stoppers and other Community Sources, which we would always follow up. Usually, this information would be captured by way of an Information Report which would

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be disseminated to DS Brown and myself. DS Brown and I travelled frequently to interview various witnesses in different locations.

24. One aspect of the investigative process involved speaking to a number of people who had been charged, or were associates of people who had been charged, with offences of assaulting people from the LGBTIQ community during the 1980s. I was aware from reviewing documents on e@gle.i, as well as conversations with DS Brown during the investigation, that prior to my involvement with SF Macnamir, investigators had spoken to a number of these people. Further to this, DS Brown and I also spoke to over 10 people who had been charged, or were associates of people who had been charged, with offences of assaulting people from the LGBTIQ community during the 1980s.
25. Prior to the commencement of the third inquest into the death of Scott Johnson, DS Brown and I made applications for some of the witnesses' names to be protected for various reasons. From memory, most of these orders were granted. There was one occasion during one of the tranches in the inquest where a witness' name was protected, however a media outlet published an article outlining the physical description of the witness, including detailed tattoos on the body of the witness. This description clearly identified the witness. After being contacted by the witness about this article, DS Brown and I sought for this online article to be removed.
26. A large part of the investigative process also involved locating records for internal and external stakeholders. I would obtain various records and documents such as historical police records, death certificates, NSWPF charge records, relevant Intelligence Reports and Medical records. All of these documents and records were required for various reasons for this investigation, and also formed part of the brief we prepared for State Coroner Barnes.
27. I did not liaise with Scott Johnson's family during the course of the investigation.

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28. I was not involved in the investigation which led to Scott White being charged with the murder of Scott Johnson. I am not aware of any protection orders made as part of, or which apply to, that investigation. Scott White's brother was initially identified as part of the SF Macnamir investigation, prior to my commencement in the UHT. Based on my recent review of e@gle.i, my understanding is that Scott White's brother came to the attention of investigators of SF Macnamir as he was named in old police records from 1988 [REDACTED]. During the course of the SF Macnamir investigation, DS Brown and I met with a male, who I now know to be the brother of Scott White. We came to interview him as he was recorded as someone who had not previously been questioned as part of the SF Macnamir investigation. He did not mention Scott White when we spoke with him. Beyond this interview, and an initial phone call to organise the interview, I do not recall having any further exchanges or interactions with Scott White's brother. I have recently conducted a search on e@gle.i for the SF Macnamir investigation; I could not locate any reference to a person by the name of "Scott White".

**SECTION D: MY VIEWS AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS STRIKE FORCE MACNAMIR**

29. In the early stages of my involvement with SF Macnamir (that is, in the period before DCI Young's removal from the investigation), I did not have a particular view on the Scott Johnson case (including what his cause of death was), which was the topic of investigation by SF Macnamir. I did not have enough knowledge about the investigation at that time. The matters I was aware of were that Scott Johnson's body had been found, and that the investigation involved a considerable amount of work, including travel and speaking to numerous people.
30. Once I became more involved in SF Macnamir, I began to consider the possible causes of his death in more detail. However, my views about Scott Johnson's cause of death were not fixed or concrete. I did not have a view or preference on whether Scott Johnson's cause of death was suicide, homicide or misadventure. In my opinion, there

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was nothing coming out of my or DS Brown's investigation that could be relied on to say it was definitely suicide, misadventure or homicide. We pursued various lines of inquiry and, when we considered all available evidence at a given time, at no stage did we consider a cause of death could be stated conclusively. Each time we spoke to someone new during the investigation (such as exploring a new lead), we uncovered details or information which, when considered holistically, gave us multiple different versions of what may have transpired in the lead up to, or what ultimately caused, the death of Scott Johnson. At no stage during the investigation was I convinced of the cause of his death one way or another.

31. I attended the hearing in November 2017 during which State Coroner Barnes delivered his findings in the third inquest into the death of Scott Johnson. The finding was that Scott Johnson had fallen from a cliff top as a result of actual or threatened violence by multiple persons who attacked him because of his perceived homosexuality.
32. Upon that finding being delivered by State Coroner Barnes, I was upset. Part of the reason for me being upset was a combination of the emotional toll of the culmination of hard work on the matter over an extended period of time. I was really surprised by the specificity of the finding that it was a gay hate crime involving two or more people, because there was no evidence that I was aware of that I thought could lead to an outcome other than an open finding and, in particular, no evidence to support such a specific finding. In the closing of the third inquest, the Senior Counsel for the Commissioner of Police submitted that the manner of Scott Johnson's death remains open. With State Coroner Barnes being so precise in his finding that Scott Johnson's death was a gay hate crime and the number of people involved, I found it to be quite unexpected.
33. Before the finding was made, I remember clearly saying to some of my colleagues in the UHT that State Coroner Barnes would make an open finding, based on my assessment of all the evidence presented at the third inquest. These comments that I made in the

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office formed part of a general conversation as colleagues were interested in my involvement in the investigation due to the high media coverage.

34. I am not sure what my response would have been if a finding of suicide, misadventure or an open finding was made. However, I do consider that I would have been upset to some degree regardless of the determination made. This is due to the nature of an investigation of an unsolved homicide, whereby someone has lost their life irrespective of the cause. I was not hoping for any particular outcome.
35. My recollection was when I was involved in SF Macnamir, Detective Chief Inspector Chris Olen (**DCI Olen**) (as he then was) was not directly involved in the investigation. After State Coroner Barnes delivered his finding in November 2017, I recall being in a room with DCI Olen, DS Brown and a few legal representatives from the NSWPF Office of the General Counsel. I recall being composed while I was in the room where State Coroner Barnes delivered his finding, however, once I was in the closed room, I did become upset, for the reasons mentioned above.
36. I cannot recall Detective Superintendent Michael Willing (**D/Supt Willing**) (as he then was) speaking to me about SF Macnamir after the finding was handed down. When I first commenced working in the UHT in 2015, D/Supt Willing was the Commander of the Homicide Squad. The UHT is part of the Homicide Squad, and D/Supt Willing was therefore my Commander. My recollection is that on 30 November 2017, D/Supt Willing was no longer the Commander of the Homicide Squad.

**SECTION E: EXTENT OF MY INVOLVEMENT IN OPERATION TARADALE, STRIKE FORCE NEIWAND AND STRIKE FORCE PARRABELL**

37. Further to my comments above about other investigations I was involved around the time of, or in addition to, SF Macnamir, I do not recall having access to e@gle.i for Operation Taradale, Strike Force Neiwand or Strike Force Parrabell. I do not remember having any involvement with these three operations or investigations.

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