

NSW POLICE FORCE

# STRIKE FORCE PARRABELL

## Bias Crimes Indicators Review Form

<b>Investigation No:</b>	33
<b>Victim/Deceased:</b>	John Gordon HUGHES
<b>Date of death:</b>	05 May, 1989
<b>Investigation Status:</b>	Unsolved
<b>Offender/s:</b>	Ian Stuart JONES (acquitted)
<b>Investigative Unit:</b>	Regional Crime Squad South – Homicide Squad
<b>Description:</b>	<p>John Gordon HUGHES, aged 51 years, was located laying face down, across a bed at his home address of [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street, Potts Point by his roommate. HUGHES' hands were bound behind his back with white electrical cord. HUGHES' feet were also bound with white electrical cord just above the ankles and a pink pillowslip from the bed had been placed over his head. Underneath the pillowslip, HUGHES' neck was also bound with white electrical cord and a leather belt. There were numerous lacerations to HUGHES' neck and head. HUGHES identified himself as a homosexual male. Ian Stuart JONES, aged 32 years was initially charged with the murder of HUGHES, however he was later acquitted. JONES identified himself as heterosexual. JONES relationship with HUGHES was described by the witness LOCKE, "He was like his bodyguard. I first met him late last year, he was with skinny John, John HUGHES, and he was living with him then."</p>

1. Differences	
Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Immutable characteristic differences between victim and POI's sexual orientation</i></li> </ul>	<p>John Gordon HUGHES, aged 51 years, was located deceased on the 6 May 1989. HUGHES was located laying face down, across a bed at his home address of [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street, Potts Point by his roommate at the time, Aaron HILL. HUGHES' hands were bound behind his back with white electrical cord. HUGHES' feet were also bound with white electrical cord just above the ankles and a pink pillowslip from the bed had been placed over his head. Underneath the pillowslip, HUGHES' neck was also bound with white electrical cord and a leather belt. There were numerous lacerations to HUGHES' neck and head. HUGHES identified himself as a homosexual male and this is noted in numerous witness statements. Confirmation of HUGHES' sexual orientation was obtained from HUGHES' long time friend and witness Gavin SCOBIE. SCOBIE stated, "I knew the person John HUGHES for over 15 years prior to his death, and have in the past shared premises with him... From my personal knowledge of John he was a homosexual and at the time of his death he had the person Aaron Lee HILL staying with him. I am not sure of the relationship between Aaron HILL and John HUGHES, although I am aware that Aaron is a bisexual. I am aware that on past occasion from my personal knowledge, Aaron and John were lovers" (ST-104). HUGHES main source of income was from dealing heroin from his home address and witness Mark LOCKE identified HUGHES as both a drug dealer and a homosexual male. LOCKE stated, "In January 1987, I introduced John to a boy I know named [REDACTED] 151. John was an active homosexual, who liked young boys... [REDACTED] 151 moved in as Johns 'bum boy' and [REDACTED] 151 would give John sexual favours in return for heroin and a place to stay. [REDACTED] 151 was also working as a prostitute at the wall in Darlinghurst Road. I believe that John was in love with [REDACTED] 151 and I base this belief on the fact John continually told me this" (ST-101). Ian Stuart JONES, aged 32 years was initially charged with the murder of HUGHES, however he was later acquitted. JONES described his relationship to HUGHES in the following</p>

	<p>statement, "I am an associate of the person John HUGHES, and I had known him for about 10 years... About the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1989... I then moved in with John for about 2 or 3 weeks, after which I left and moved to Bathurst" (ST-100). It does not appear that HUGHES and JONES were involved in a sexual relationship and it is most likely that JONES identified himself as heterosexual. JONES relationship with HUGHES was described by the witness LOCKE, "He was like his bodyguard. I first met him late last year, he was with skinny John, John HUGHES, and he was living with him then" (ST-101).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Victim is a member of a group which is outnumbered by members of another group in the area where the incident occurred</i></li> </ul>	<p>HUGHES was not known to be a member of any advocacy group and did not associate with any members of any particular targeted group at the time of his murder.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Victim was engaged in activities promoting his/her group</i></li> </ul>	<p>HUGHES was not involved in any activities promoting his group. HUGHES was selling heroin from his home address and it appeared to be common knowledge that he was a drug dealer amongst the homosexual community. This is stated clearly by 151 (151) in his formal statement to police, "At the time of being introduced to HUGHES, the purpose behind the meeting was to obtain heroin from him. HUGHES was a well known heroin dealer" (ST-103).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Incident coincided with a holiday or date of particular significance to the victim or POI's group</i></li> </ul>	<p>The incident did not appear to coincide with a holiday or date of any significance to either HUGHES or JONES.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Victim, although not a member of the targeted group is a member a member of an advocacy group that supports the victim, or the victim was in company of a member of the targeted group</i></li> </ul>	<p>HUGHES was not known to be a member of any advocacy groups and did not associate with any members of a particular group at the time of his murder. HUGHES was a drug dealer and had numerous criminal associates at the time of his murder.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Historical animosity exists between the victim's group and the POI's group</i></li> </ul>	<p>HUGHES and JONES had known each other for approximately 10 years. There was a strong personal dislike between the two men following an incident in 1989. JONES had been living with HUGHES in early 1989 but the relationship had soured between the two as JONES had stolen a number of personal items from HUGHES' residence when he moved out in February 1989. HUGHES was upset by this as expressed by witness Mark LOCKE in the following statement, "When Jonesy left John's place early this year, he took with him John's drugs and some cash, I think it was over \$2000-00. He also took some electrical equipment, a police scanner, a video and a television. He also took some of John's clothes. John was very upset about that because none of the clothes</p>

	<p>would fit him. John was extremely upset of this robbery as he had trusted JONES and believed he was a friend" (ST-101). LOCKE later recalled a confrontation with JONES, who expressed his dislike of HUGHES over the same incident. JONES was angry that HUGHES had reported him to the Police, for stealing his property and clothing. JONES said, "What did John do about me knocking off his stuff?" LOCKE said, "Well I'm pretty sure he went to the Police." JONESY already appeared angry, however after I told him this he really got mad, so mad he was spitting his words. He said, "What else." I said, "I don't know mate, I really don't know." He then said, "Don't lie Mark or I'll rip your head off. I was going to pay John a visit anyway and give him a hiding for things I've been hearing. I've made up my mind now, I'll fix him properly. LOCKE said, "What are you going to do?" JONES said, "I'll kill the little cunt" (ST-101).</p>
Indicators	(y/n)
<p>Evidence of Bias Crime – sufficient evidence/information exists to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident was either wholly or partially motivated by bias towards one of the protected categories and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Suspected Bias Crime – evidence/information exists that the incident may have been motivated by bias but the incident cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it was either wholly or partially motivated by bias and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>No Evidence of Bias Crime – the incident has been determined as either not being motivated by bias towards a protected group or although bias motivation is in evidence it does not relate to a protected group.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Insufficient Information – insufficient information has been recorded to make a determination in regards to bias motivation. This may be due to a lack of detail recorded by police or a lack of information supplied by victim's and/or witnesses.</p>	<p>No</p>
GENERAL COMMENT	
<p>John Gordon HUGHES, aged 51 years, was located deceased on the 6 May 1989. HUGHES was located laying face down, across a bed at his home address of ██████ Greenknowe Street, Potts Point by his roommate at the time, Aaron HILL. HUGHES identified himself as a homosexual male and this is noted in numerous witness statements. Confirmation of HUGHES sexual orientation was obtained from HUGHES long time friend and witness Gavin SCOBIE, "I knew the person John HUGHES for over 15 years prior to his death, and have in the past shared premises with him... From my personal knowledge of John he was a homosexual and at the time of his death he had the person Aaron Lee HILL staying with him. I am not sure of the relationship between Aaron HILL and John HUGHES, although I am aware that Aaron is a bisexual. I am aware that on past occasion from</p>	

my personal knowledge, Aaron and John were lovers." Ian Stuart JONES aged 32 years was initially charged with the murder of HUGHES, however he was later acquitted. JONES described his relationship to HUGHES in the following statement, "I am an associate of the person John HUGHES, and I had known him for about 10 years.... About the 15<sup>th</sup> February 1989... I then moved in with John for about 2 or 3 weeks, after which I left and moved to Bathurst." It does not appear that HUGHES and JONES were involved in a sexual relationship and it is most likely that JONES identified himself as heterosexual. JONES relationship with HUGHES was described by the witness LOCKE, "He was like his bodyguard. I first met him late last year, he was with skinny John, John HUGHES, and he was living with him then." HUGHES was selling heroin from his home address with this appearing to be common knowledge amongst the homosexual community. This is made clear in the statement of [REDACTED] (151) who stated to Police, "At the time of being introduced to HUGHES, the purpose behind the meeting was to obtain heroin from him. HUGHES was a well known heroin dealer." There was a strong personal dislike between HUGHES and JONES following an incident in 1989. JONES had been living with HUGHES in early 1989 but the relationship had soured between the two however, as JONES had stolen a number of personal items from HUGHES' residence when he moved out of the premises in February 1989. HUGHES was upset by this as expressed by witness Mark LOCKE in the following statement, "When Jonesy left John's place early this year, he took with him John's drugs and some cash, I think it was over \$2000-00. He also took some electrical equipment, a police scanner, a video and a television. He also took some of John's clothes. John was very upset about that because none of the clothes would fit him. John was extremely upset of this robbery as he had trusted JONES and believed he was a friend." LOCKE later recalled a confrontation with JONES, who expressed his dislike of HUGHES over the same incident. JONES was angry that HUGHES had reported him to the Police, for stealing his property and clothing. JONES said, "What did John do about me knocking off his stuff?" LOCKE said, "Well I'm pretty sure he went to the Police." JONES already appeared angry, however after I told him this he really got mad, so mad he was spitting his words. He said, "What else." I said, "I don't know mate, I really don't know." He then said, "Don't lie Mark or I'll rip your head off. I was going to pay John a visit anyway and give him a hiding for things I've been hearing. I've made up my mind now, I'll fix him properly. LOCKE said, "What are you going to do?" JONES said, "I'll kill the little cunt."

## 2. Comments, Written Statements, Gestures

Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Bias related comments, written statements or gestures were made by the POI</i></li> </ul>	<p>The only bias related comments detected were found in the record of interview of JONES, which was completed with Detective PLOTECKI on the 30 April 1990. During record of interview, DSC PLOTECKI asked JONES, "What is your reason for leaving John HUGHES flat in mid March 1989?" JONES answered, "I was fed up with the place, it was full of drugs and poofers" (TR-123).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Comments and gestures can occur before, during and after the incident</i></li> </ul>	<p>The above bias related comment was made following the murder of HUGHES. Prior to HUGHES' murder, JONES was attributed with saying, "I'll kill the little cunt", in regards to reporting him [JONES] to the Police for stealing HUGHES' property. This was recorded in the statement of LOCKE (ST-101). Whilst not bias related, it adds weight to the level of animosity held by JONES towards HUGHES, immediately prior to his murder.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Victims may not be aware of the significance of gestures made</i></li> </ul>	<p>HUGHES and JONES were associates and had known each other for about 10 years prior to the murder of HUGHES. JONES had been living with HUGHES in early 1989 but the relationship had soured between the two. JONES had stolen a number of personal items from HUGHES' residence when he moved out of the premises in February 1989. HUGHES was very upset by this and informed witnesses that he was going to get JONES bashed and also report the</p>

	<p>stealing to Police, identifying JONES as the person who stole his property. HUGHES would have known that this would have angered JONES and even discussed this with the witness LOCKE. LOCKE recalled the following conversation with HUGHES. LOCKE said, "What can you do to Jonesy anyway?" John said, "I'll get him bashed, I've got some friends. I'll fix him. I can't believe he did this." "John said, "I'm going to the Cop Shop too and make a statement about this." I said to John, "You want to be careful, you know what Jonesy's like" (ST-101)</p>
Indicators	(y/n)
<p>Evidence of Bias Crime – sufficient evidence/information exists to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident was either wholly or partially motivated by bias towards one of the protected categories and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Suspected Bias Crime – evidence/information exists that the incident may have been motivated by bias but the incident cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it was either wholly or partially motivated by bias and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>No Evidence of Bias Crime – the incident has been determined as either not being motivated by bias towards a protected group or although bias motivation is in evidence it does not relate to a protected group.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Insufficient Information – insufficient information has been recorded to make a determination in regards to bias motivation. This may be due to a lack of detail recorded by police or a lack of information supplied by victim's and/or witnesses.</p>	<p>No</p>
GENERAL COMMENT	
<p>The only bias related comments detected were found in the record of interview of JONES, which was completed with Detective PLOTECKI on the 30 April 1990. During record of interview, DSC PLOTECKI asked JONES, "What is your reason for leaving John HUGHES flat in mid March 1989?" JONES answered, "I was fed up with the place, it was full of drugs and poofers." The above bias related comment was made following the murder of HUGHES. Prior to HUGHES' murder, JONES was attributed with saying, "I'll kill the little cunt." This was in regards to HUGHES reporting JONES to the Police for stealing HUGHES' property. This was recorded in the statement of LOCKE. Whilst not bias related, it adds weight to the level of animosity held by JONES towards HUGHES, immediately prior to his murder. JONES had been living with HUGHES in early 1989 but the relationship had soured between the two. JONES had stolen a number of personal items from HUGHES' residence when he moved out of the premises in February 1989. In turn, HUGHES was very upset by this and informed witnesses that he was going to get JONES bashed and report the stealing to Police, identifying JONES as the person who stole his property. LOCKE recalls the following conversation with HUGHES, LOCKE said, "What can you do to Jonesy anyway?" John said, "I'll get him bashed, I've got some friends. I'll fix him. I can't believe he did this." John said, "I'm going to the Cop Shop too and make a statement about this." I said to John, "You want to be careful, you know what Jonesy's like." HUGHES would have known that this would have angered JONES and even discussed this with the witness LOCKE, fully aware that it would provoke a response from JONES. HUGHES has possibly underestimated the response that it would invoke from JONES.</p>	

### 3. Drawings, Markings, Symbols, Tattoos, Graffiti

Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bias related drawings, markings, symbols or graffiti were left at the scene or were seen on the POI</i></li> </ul>	<p>No bias related drawings, markings or symbols were located within the crime scene, being HUGHES' unit at [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street, Potts Point. The statement of Crime Scene Officer Plain Clothes Constable KHOUDAIR does not identify any bias related material (ST-99). JONES was charged with the murder of HUGHES on the 1 May 1990, however was later acquitted. JONES is still thought to be responsible for the murder of HUGHES and remained the only suspect up until his death in 2002. The following is a description of JONES' tattoos as of the 27 December, 1990:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Tattoo left lower arm/forearm 'True Love', Cross Tattoo,</li> <li>2) Shoulder/Shoulder Blade: Cross/Crucifix/Swastika and heart right side.</li> <li>3) Tattoo right upper arm/bicep, Nazi Skull</li> <li>4) Tattoo right lower arm/forearm, Cross/Crucifix/Swastika 'lan' and heart and flower</li> <li>5) Tattoo left lower are/forearm, Cross/Crucifix/Swastika, large cross</li> <li>6) Tattoo left upper arm/bicep, Skull/Skeleton Bones 'EHENCHMEN' (OD-250). The word 'Henchmen' is defined in the English Dictionary as "a faithful follower or political supporter, especially one prepared to engage in crime or violence by way of service." These types of tattoos, particularly the 'Nazi Skull' tattoo can be indicative of tattoos that are representative of symbology known to be used/worn by OHG'S and it appears that JONES did have the tattoos at the time of HUGHES' murder. JONES' tattoos were listed by Police on the 27 December 1990 and contained within an internal intelligence report (OD-250).</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Before discounting symbols, ensure that you understand the meaning of the symbol</i></li> </ul>	<p>There is insufficient evidence to make a determination regarding the meaning behind the tattoos listed on JONES. There is no evidence to suggest that JONES was linked to an OHG but clearly these symbols can have bias related connotations and are used by some OHG'S. JONES described himself as "...an associate of the person John HUGHES, and I had known him for about 10 years" (ST-100). JONES was friendly enough with HUGHES, that HUGHES allowed JONES to reside with him, at his home address, for a period of 2-3 weeks in February 1989.</p>

Indicators	(y/n)
Evidence of Bias Crime – sufficient evidence/information exists to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident was either wholly or partially motivated by bias towards one of the protected categories and constitutes a criminal offence.	No
Suspected Bias Crime – evidence/information exists that the incident may have been motivated by bias but the incident cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it was either wholly or partially motivated by bias and constitutes a criminal offence.	No
No Evidence of Bias Crime – the incident has been determined as either not being motivated by bias towards a protected group or although bias motivation is in evidence it does not relate to a protected group.	Yes
Insufficient Information – insufficient information has been recorded to make a determination in regards to bias motivation. This may be due to a lack of detail recorded by police or a lack of information supplied by victim's and/or witnesses.	No
<b>GENERAL COMMENT</b>	
<p>No bias related drawings, markings or symbols were located within the crime scene, being HUGHES' unit at [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street, Potts Point. The statement of Crime Scene Officer Plain Clothes Constable KHOUDAIR did not identify any bias related material. JONES was charged with the murder of HUGHES on the 1 May 1990, however was later acquitted. JONES is still thought to be responsible for the murder of HUGHES and remained the prime suspect up until his death in 2002. JONES had a number of tattoos as listed above. Notably, tattoos 3) and 6) have possible bias related meanings but there is insufficient evidence to make a determination regarding the meaning behind the tattoos listed. It appears that JONES did have the tattoos at the time of HUGHES' murder as they are listed in a Police Crime and Intelligence Report. There is no evidence to suggest that JONES was linked to an OHG but clearly these symbols can have bias related connotations and are used by some OHG'S.</p>	
<b>4. Organised Hate Groups (OHG)</b>	
Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Objects or items that represent the work of an OHG were left at the scene, e.g. business cards, flyers, burning cross</i></li> </ul>	<p>Plain Clothes Constable KHOUDAIR was the Crime Scene Unit of the Physical Evidence Section Sydney attended the crime scene and the post mortem of HUGHES (ST-99). No objects or items representing the work of an OHG were noted or recovered at the scene by Plain Clothes Constable KHOUDAIR.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>An OHG claimed responsibility</i></li> </ul>	<p>No OHG claimed responsibility for the murder of HUGHES.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>There are indications that an OHG was involved or active in the area</i></li> </ul>	<p>There are no indications that an OHG was involved or active in the area at the time of HUGHES' murder.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>MO is similar to known MO of an OHG</i></li> </ul>	M.O. is not similar to the known M.O. of any OHG'S.
Indicators	(y/n)
Evidence of Bias Crime – sufficient evidence/information exists to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident was either wholly or partially motivated by bias towards one of the protected categories and constitutes a criminal offence.	No
Suspected Bias Crime – evidence/information exists that the incident may have been motivated by bias but the incident cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it was either wholly or partially motivated by bias and constitutes a criminal offence.	No
No Evidence of Bias Crime – the incident has been determined as either not being motivated by bias towards a protected group or although bias motivation is in evidence it does not relate to a protected group.	Yes
Insufficient Information – insufficient information has been recorded to make a determination in regards to bias motivation. This may be due to a lack of detail recorded by police or a lack of information supplied by victim's and/or witnesses.	No
GENERAL COMMENT	
Statement of Plain Clothes Constable Samuel Joseph KHOUDAIR of the Physical Evidence Section Sydney was reviewed. PCC KHOUDAIR attended the crime scene and the post mortem of HUGHES No objects or items representing the work of an OHG were noted or recovered at the scene. No OHG claimed responsibility for the murder of HUGHES. There are no indications that an OHG was involved or active in the area at the time of HUGHES' murder. M.O. is not similar to the known M.O. of any OHG'S.	
5. Previous existence of Bias Crime Incidents	
Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Victim was visiting a location where previous bias crimes had been committed against members of the victim's group</i></li> </ul>	At the time of his murder, HUGHES was at his home address of [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street, Potts Point. HUGHES was not visiting a location where any previous bias crimes had been committed. The unit block where HUGHES resided, was located directly behind the former Rex Hotel, Macleay Street, Potts Point which had a back bar commonly known as the 'Bottoms Up Bar'. The 'Bottoms Up Bar' was a prominent gay venue from the 1960s and the nearby Fitzroy Gardens was a known 'beat' location, which was frequented by males seeking to engage the services of a male prostitute.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Several incidents occurred in the same area and the victims were members of the same group</i></li> </ul>	<p>Due to the lack of converted data, searches are unable to be completed in relation to identifying similar incidents that occurred in the same area. No other incidents of a similar nature have been identified as having occurred within close proximity to this location, during the review process. However due to the nature of this particular location as identified above, it is likely that other incidents could have occurred in this area.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Victim has received previous harassing mail, email, social media posts or phone calls or has been the victim of verbal abuse (anti-gay) based on his/her affiliation with a targeted group</i></li> </ul>	<p>There is no record of HUGHES receiving any harassing mail or phone calls at his current address or any of the other units within the same complex which he had previously lived in. The caretaker of the unit block that HUGHES resided in Geoffrey WILSON stated to Police, "I have known the deceased John HUGHES for around the same amount of time. He used to reside in flat number ■■■ with Steven PENNEY. He moved out of room number ■■■ and then moved to room ■■■. He had been in that room for about 5 or 6 months, when he was evicted out of the room. He then moved into room ■■■. He [HUGHES] had only been in that room about 4 or 5 weeks prior to this death. During that time he would bring just about anyone into the building, anyone he met in his travels he would bring into the building. A number of other tenants had complained in the past about people banging on his door in the middle of the night, but that was when he was in Room ■■■" (ST-107).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Recent bias incidents or crimes may have sparked retaliatory bias crime</i></li> </ul>	<p>There is no record of any bias related incidents or crimes at the time that may have sparked a retaliatory bias crime towards HUGHES.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Indicators</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>(y/n)</b></p>
<p>Evidence of Bias Crime – sufficient evidence/information exists to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident was either wholly or partially motivated by bias towards one of the protected categories and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No</p>
<p>Suspected Bias Crime – evidence/information exists that the incident may have been motivated by bias but the incident cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it was either wholly or partially motivated by bias and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No</p>
<p>No Evidence of Bias Crime – the incident has been determined as either not being motivated by bias towards a protected group or although bias motivation is in evidence it does not relate to a protected group.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">No</p>

Insufficient Information – insufficient information has been recorded to make a determination in regards to bias motivation. This may be due to a lack of detail recorded by police or a lack of information supplied by victim’s and/or witnesses.	Yes
<b>GENERAL COMMENT</b>	
<p>At the time of his murder, HUGHES was at his home address of [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street, Potts Point. HUGHES was not visiting a location where any previous bias crimes had been committed. The unit block where HUGHES resided, was located directly behind the former Rex Hotel, Macleay Street, Potts Point which had a back bar commonly known as the ‘Bottoms Up Bar’. The ‘Bottoms Up Bar’ was a prominent gay venue from the 1960s and the nearby Fitzroy Gardens was a known ‘beat’ location, which was frequented by males seeking to engage the services of a male prostitute. Due to the lack of converted data, searches are unable to be completed in relation to identifying similar incidents that occurred in the same area. No other incidents of a similar nature have been identified as having occurred within close proximity to this location, during the review process. However due to the nature of this particular location as identified above, it is likely that other incidents could have occurred in this area. There is no record of HUGHES receiving any harassing mail or phone calls at his current address or any of the other units within the same complex which he had previously lived in. There is no record of any bias related incidents or crimes at the time that may have sparked a retaliatory bias crime towards HUGHES.</p>	
<b>6. Victim/Witness Perception</b>	
<b>Prompts</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Witnesses (actual) perceive that the incident was motivated by bias</i></li> </ul>	<p>None of the witnesses perceive that the incident was motivated by bias. The majority of the witnesses interviewed in relation to the murder of HUGHES were his criminal associates and appeared to be drug clients, as well as his personal friends. All of the witnesses were well aware of HUGHES’ sexual orientation, which appeared to be common knowledge. In a newspaper article printed on the 16 September 1989 that appeared in the Daily Mirror, an unidentified NSW Police spokesperson stated, “Police are still searching for a motive for the brutal murder but believe it could have been drug related. HUGHES was out on bail for drug related charges at the time and we believe he may have owed money for a drug deal. He was also well known in homosexual circles” (OD-253).</p>
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>(y/n)</b>
Evidence of Bias Crime – sufficient evidence/information exists to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident was either wholly or partially motivated by bias towards one of the protected categories and constitutes a criminal offence.	No
Suspected Bias Crime – evidence/information exists that the incident may have been motivated by bias but the incident cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it was either wholly or partially motivated by bias and constitutes a criminal offence.	No

No Evidence of Bias Crime – the incident has been determined as either not being motivated by bias towards a protected group or although bias motivation is in evidence it does not relate to a protected group.	Yes
Insufficient Information – insufficient information has been recorded to make a determination in regards to bias motivation. This may be due to a lack of detail recorded by police or a lack of information supplied by victim's and/or witnesses.	No

## GENERAL COMMENT

None of the witnesses perceive that the incident was motivated by bias. The majority of the witnesses interviewed in relation to the murder of HUGHES were his criminal associates and appeared to be drug clients, as well as his personal friends. All of the witnesses were well aware of HUGHES' sexual orientation, which appeared to be common knowledge. In a newspaper article printed on the 16 September 1989 that appeared in the Daily Mirror, an unidentified NSW Police spokesperson stated, "Police are still searching for a motive for the brutal murder but believe it could have been drug related. HUGHES was out on bail for drug related charges at the time and we believe he may have owed money for a drug deal. He was also well known in homosexual circles." Whilst it appears that Police at the time acknowledged that the murder of HUGHES could have been bias related, it is much more likely that robbery was the clear motive for the murder.

## 7. Motive of Offender/s

Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>POI was previously involved in similar incident or is a member/associates with members of an OHG</i></li> </ul>	JONES had a criminal history prior to the murder of HUGHES and there is evidence of violent crimes, including assault occasioning actual bodily harm and also a number of firearm related offences. JONES also has minor drug related charges and property offences on his criminal record. Due to the lack of detail available on COPS, it is unable to be determined if any of the previous offences noted on JONES' criminal history were similar in nature, were bias related or involved members or associates of any OHG'S.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The victim was in company of a member of the targeted group</i></li> </ul>	HUGHES was at home, alone at the time of his murder at [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street, Potts Point. The premises were frequented by numerous persons at the time, as HUGHES was a drug dealer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The victim was perceived to be breaking from traditional conventions or working non-traditional employment</i></li> </ul>	HUGHES was employed legally as Night Manager at the Merlin Plaza Hotel in Potts Point, Sydney. He was also a drug dealer who dealt heroin from his home address. Associate Mark LOCKE recounted in a statement, "I had known John HUGHES for about 3 years...John was also a heroin dealer, from whom I purchased heroin on numerous occasions. Indeed at the time John died

	<p>I owed him about \$1200.00 for drugs he had supplied me with, over a nine month period" (ST-101). LOCKE went on to say, "It was usual for me when picking up drugs from John to ring him first, to see if he had heroin, I would then go around to the unit and 'buzz' him and after he let me in, I would then go to his unit and pick up heroin. In the last year, as far as I am aware, John always sold from his unit" (ST-101). This was affirmed in the statement of [ 151 ] [ 151 ] who stated, "At the time of being introduced to HUGHES, the purpose behind the meeting was to obtain heroin from him. HUGHES was a well known heroin dealer" (ST-103). Dealing drugs whilst generally profitable is a high risk occupation and is clearly why Police were of the belief that one of the motives for this murder was robbery.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The POI has a history of previous crimes with similar MO and involving other victims of the same group</i></li> </ul>	<p>JONES had a criminal history prior to the murder of HUGHES and there is evidence of violent crimes, including assault occasioning actual bodily harm and also a number of firearm related offences. JONES also had minor drug related charges and property offences on his criminal record. However, due to the age of the data, the details have not been converted onto COPS and there are no details available to indicate whether or not the offences were bias related.</p>
Indicators	(y/n)
<p>Evidence of Bias Crime – sufficient evidence/information exists to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident was either wholly or partially motivated by bias towards one of the protected categories and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Suspected Bias Crime – evidence/information exists that the incident may have been motivated by bias but the incident cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it was either wholly or partially motivated by bias and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>No Evidence of Bias Crime – the incident has been determined as either not being motivated by bias towards a protected group or although bias motivation is in evidence it does not relate to a protected group.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Insufficient Information – insufficient information has been recorded to make a determination in regards to bias motivation. This may be due to a lack of detail recorded by police or a lack of information supplied by victim's and/or witnesses.</p>	<p>No</p>

## GENERAL COMMENT

Due to the lack of detail available on COPS, it is unable to be determined if any of the previous offences noted on JONES' criminal history were similar in nature, were bias related or involved members or associates of any OHG'S. JONES had a criminal history prior to the murder of HUGHES and there is evidence of violent crimes, including assault occasioning actual bodily harm and also a number of firearm related offences. JONES also has minor drug related charges and property offences on his criminal record. However, due to the age of the data, the details have not been converted onto COPS and there are no details available to indicate whether or not the offences were bias related. HUGHES was employed legally as Night Manager at the Merlin Plaza Hotel in Potts Point, Sydney. HUGHES was also a drug dealer who dealt heroin from his home address. Associate Mark LOCKE recounted in a statement, "I had known John HUGHES for about 3 years...John was also a heroin dealer, from whom I purchased heroin on numerous occasions. Indeed at the time John died I owed him about \$1200.00 for drugs he had supplied me with, over a nine month period." LOCKE went on to say, "It was usual for me when picking up drugs from John to ring him first, to see if he had heroin, I would then go around to the unit and 'buzz' him and after he let me in, I would then go to his unit and pick up heroin. In the last year, as far as I am aware, John always sold from his unit." Dealing drugs whilst generally profitable is a high risk occupation and is clearly why Police were of the belief that one of the motives for this murder was robbery.

## 8. Location of Incident

Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The victim was in or near an area or place commonly associated with or frequented by members of a particular group e.g. beat</i></li> </ul>	<p>The location, being HUGHES' home address of [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street, Potts Point was frequented by numerous people due to HUGHES being a drug dealer and conducting his drug deals from the unit. The unit block was located directly behind the former Rex Hotel, Macleay Street, Potts Point which had a Back Bar commonly known as the 'Bottoms Up Bar'. The 'Bottoms Up Bar' was a prominent gay venue from the 1960s and the nearby Fitzroy Gardens were a known 'beat' location frequented by males looking to engage the services of male prostitutes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The location of an incident has specific significance to the victim or POI group e.g. cemetery, religious building, historical landmark, etc</i></li> </ul>	<p>The location did not appear to have any specific significance to either HUGHES or JONES, other than it being HUGHES' residence.</p>
Indicators	(y/n)
<p>Evidence of Bias Crime – sufficient evidence/information exists to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident was either wholly or partially motivated by bias towards one of the protected categories and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	No
<p>Suspected Bias Crime – evidence/information exists that the incident may have been motivated by bias but the incident cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it was either wholly or partially motivated by bias and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	No

<p>No Evidence of Bias Crime – the incident has been determined as either not being motivated by bias towards a protected group or although bias motivation is in evidence it does not relate to a protected group.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Insufficient Information – insufficient information has been recorded to make a determination in regards to bias motivation. This may be due to a lack of detail recorded by police or a lack of information supplied by victim’s and/or witnesses.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

**GENERAL COMMENT**

The location, being HUGHES’ home address of [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street, Potts Point was frequented by numerous people due to HUGHES being a drug dealer and conducting his drug deals from the unit. The unit block was located directly behind the former Rex Hotel, Macleay Street, Potts Point which had a Back Bar commonly known as the ‘Bottoms Up Bar’. The ‘Bottoms Up Bar’ was a prominent gay venue from the 1960s and the nearby Fitzroy Gardens were a known ‘beat’ location frequented by males looking to engage the services of male prostitutes. The location does not appear to have any specific significance to either HUGHES or JONES, other than it being HUGHES’ residence.

**9. Lack of Motive**

Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>No clear economic or other motive for the incident exists</i></li> </ul>	<p>It appeared to be common knowledge among HUGHES’ associates, that HUGHES had \$5000.00 hidden away in a bank account to pay for pending legal costs. JONES made the following comment in regards to HUGHES and his money, “While I was living with John, he told me he had \$5000 snookered away for solicitors fees, in either the National Australia Bank or the St George Building Society” (ST-100). JONES was eventually arrested in relation to the murder of HUGHES and found to be in possession of a St George Bank Account passbook in the name of HUGHES. JONES had been living with HUGHES in early 1989 but the relationship had soured between the two as JONES had stolen a number of personal items from HUGHES’ residence when he moved out of the premises in February 1989. HUGHES was upset by this as expressed by witness Mark LOCKE in the following statement, “When Jonesy left John’s place early this year, he took with him John’s drugs and some cash, I think it was over \$2000-00. He also took some electrical equipment, a police scanner, a video and a television. He also took some of John’s clothes. John was very upset about that because none of the clothes would fit him. John was</p>

	<p>extremely upset of this robbery as he had trusted JONES and believed he was a friend" (ST-101). LOCKE later recalled a confrontation with JONES, who expressed his dislike of HUGHES over the same incident. JONES was angry that HUGHES had reported him to the Police, for stealing his property and clothing. JONES said, "What did John do about me knocking off his stuff?" LOCKE said, "Well I'm pretty sure he went to the Police." JONESY already appeared angry, however after I told him this he really got mad, so mad he was spitting his words. He said, "What else." I said, "I don't know mate, I really don't know." He then said, "Don't lie Mark or I'll rip your head off. I was going to pay John a visit anyway and give him a hiding for things I've been hearing. I've made up my mind now, I'll fix him properly." LOCKE said, "What are you going to do?" JONES said, "I'll kill the little cunt" (ST-101). In a newspaper article printed on the 16 September 1989 that appeared in the Daily Mirror, an unidentified NSW Police spokesperson stated, "Police are still searching for a motive for the brutal murder but believe it could have been drug related. HUGHES was out on bail for drug related charges at the time and we believe he may have owed money for a drug deal. He was also well known in homosexual circles" (OD-253).</p>
Indicators	(y/n)
<p>Evidence of Bias Crime – sufficient evidence/information exists to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident was either wholly or partially motivated by bias towards one of the protected categories and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Suspected Bias Crime – evidence/information exists that the incident may have been motivated by bias but the incident cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it was either wholly or partially motivated by bias and constitutes a criminal offence.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>No Evidence of Bias Crime – the incident has been determined as either not being motivated by bias towards a protected group or although bias motivation is in evidence it does not relate to a protected group.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Insufficient Information – insufficient information has been recorded to make a determination in regards to bias motivation. This may be due to a lack of detail recorded by police or a lack of information supplied by victim's and/or witnesses.</p>	<p>No</p>



## GENERAL COMMENT

In a newspaper article printed on the 16 September 1989 in the Daily Mirror, an unidentified NSW Police spokesperson stated, "Police are still searching for a motive for the brutal murder but believe it could have been drug related. HUGHES was out on bail for drug related charges at the time and we believe he may have owed money for a drug deal. He was also well known in homosexual circles." This appears to be the NSW Police position initially, regarding the motive behind the murder of HUGHES. It appeared to be common knowledge among HUGHES' associates, that HUGHES had \$5000.00 hidden away in a bank account to pay for pending legal costs. JONES made the following comment in regards to HUGHES and his money, "While I was living with John, he told me he had \$5000 snookered away for solicitors fees, in either the National Australia Bank or the St George Building Society." When JONES was arrested in relation to the murder of HUGHES, he was in possession of a St George Bank Account Passbook in the name of HUGHES. JONES had motive to murder HUGHES and had made numerous statements to witnesses identifying his dislike for HUGHES and wish to get back at HUGHES for reporting him to the Police. JONES had been living with HUGHES in early 1989 but the relationship had soured between the two as JONES had stolen a number of personal items from HUGHES' residence when he moved out of the premises in February 1989. HUGHES was upset by this as expressed by witness Mark LOCKE in the following statement, "When Jonesy left Johns' place early this year, he took with him Johns' drugs and some cash, I think it was over \$2000-00. He also took some electrical equipment, a police scanner, a video and a television. He also took some of John's clothes. John was very upset about that because none of the clothes would fit him. John was extremely upset of this robbery as he had trusted JONES and believed he was a friend." LOCKE later recalled a confrontation with JONES, who expressed his dislike of HUGHES over the same incident. JONES was angry that HUGHES had reported him to the Police, for stealing his property and clothing. JONES said, "What did John do about me knocking off his stuff?" LOCKE said, "Well I'm pretty sure he went to the Police." JONESY already appeared angry, however after I told him this he really got mad, so mad he was spitting his words. He said, "What else." I said, "I don't know mate, I really don't know." He then said, "Don't lie Mark or I'll rip your head off. I was going to pay John a visit anyway and give him a hiding for things I've been hearing. I've made up my mind now, I'll fix him properly." LOCKE said, "What are you going to do?" JONES said, "I'll kill the little cunt."

## 10. Level of Violence

Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The level of violence and injuries sustained by the victim/s is greater than would be expected for a crime of that type</i></li> </ul>	<p>The examination of the body of the HUGHES was completed by Forensic Pathologist Dr. Liliana SCHWARTZ, Post Mortem Number: 89/726. The cause of death was noted as "Asphyxia" due to "Strangulation with a ligature" and "Blunt object injury to the head." "Preliminary testing of serum was positive for Hepatitis B surface antigen. Because of the highly infectious nature of this condition and with authorisation of the Coroner, an external examination only was performed" (OD-71). In a newspaper article printed on the 16 September 1989 that appeared in the Daily Mirror, an unidentified NSW Police spokesperson stated, "This is a particularly brutal murder. Whoever went into that unit meant to kill HUGHES and inflict an incredible amount of pain in doing so" (OD-253).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Weapons of opportunity are used in the incident</i></li> </ul>	<p>Weapons of opportunity were used in the murder of HUGHES. Detective PLOTECKI describes the following, "The body's hands were bound behind the back, with white electrical cord, as were his feet, bound just above the ankles. A</p>

	pink pillow slip covered the head of the deceased and further white electrical cord and a leather belt were wrapped around the body's neck. A pair of kitchen tongs were protruding from the back of the neck of the body, and appeared to have been used to tighten these bindings by having twisted them. Pieces of broken pottery were scattered about on the bed, around the head of the deceased and a light bulb was next to the deceased right arm. There were blood stains on the pillowslip and on a bed, below the head of the body, apparently from wounds to the head of the deceased" (ST- 98). All the above items noted by Detective PLOTECKI appear to have been sourced from the crime scene and used in the murder of HUGHES.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The number of POI's is greater than the number of victims and all POI's take an active role in the assault</i></li> </ul>	It is likely that only one offender murdered HUGHES but this cannot be confirmed. HUGHES was only small in stature, as described by an unidentified Police Officer; "HUGHES, 44, was only of jockey size, weighing 60 kgs and Police are baffled why such a small time drug dealer should have been killed so brutally" (OD-253).
Indicators	(y/n)
Evidence of Bias Crime – sufficient evidence/information exists to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the incident was either wholly or partially motivated by bias towards one of the protected categories and constitutes a criminal offence.	No
Suspected Bias Crime – evidence/information exists that the incident may have been motivated by bias but the incident cannot be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that it was either wholly or partially motivated by bias and constitutes a criminal offence.	No
No Evidence of Bias Crime – the incident has been determined as either not being motivated by bias towards a protected group or although bias motivation is in evidence it does not relate to a protected group.	No
Insufficient Information – insufficient information has been recorded to make a determination in regards to bias motivation. This may be due to a lack of detail recorded by police or a lack of information supplied by victim's and/or witnesses.	Yes
GENERAL COMMENT	

In a newspaper article printed on the 16 September 1989 that appeared in the Daily Mirror, an unidentified NSW Police spokesperson stated, "This is a particularly brutal murder. Whoever went into that unit meant to kill HUGHES and inflict an incredible amount of pain in doing so." Weapons of opportunity were used in the murder of HUGHES. Items such as electrical cord used to bind and tie HUGHES, the belt and tongs used to strangle him and the pillowslip used to cover his head were all items noted in Detective PLOTECKI'S statement, which appear to have been sourced from the crime scene and used in the murder of HUGHES. It is likely that only one offender murdered HUGHES but this cannot be confirmed. HUGHES was only small in stature, as described by an unidentified Police Officer; "HUGHES, 44, was only of jockey size, weighing 60 kgs and Police are baffled why such a small time drug dealer should have been killed so brutally."

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

**Indicator:** Insufficient Information (II)

**Comment:** John Gordon HUGHES, aged 51 years, was located deceased on the 6 May 1989. HUGHES was located laying face down, across a bed at his home address of [REDACTED] Greenknowe Street, Potts Point by his roommate at the time, Aaron HILL. HUGHES identified himself as a homosexual male and this is noted in numerous witness statements. Confirmation of HUGHES sexual orientation was obtained from HUGHES long time friend and witness Gavin SCOBIE, "I knew the person John HUGHES for over 15 years prior to his death, and have in the past shared premises with him... From my personal knowledge of John he was a homosexual and at the time of his death he had the person Aaron Lee HILL staying with him. I am not sure of the relationship between Aaron HILL and John HUGHES, although I am aware that Aaron is a bisexual. I am aware that on past occasion from my personal knowledge, Aaron and John were lovers." Ian Stuart JONES aged 32 years was initially charged with the murder of HUGHES, however he was later acquitted. JONES described his relationship to HUGHES in the following statement, "I am an associate of the person John HUGHES, and I had known him for about 10 years... About the 15 February 1989... I then moved in with John for about 2 or 3 weeks, after which I left and moved to Bathurst." It does not appear that HUGHES and JONES were involved in a sexual relationship and it is most likely that JONES identified himself as heterosexual. JONES relationship with HUGHES was described by the witness LOCKE, "He was like his bodyguard. I first met him late last year, he was with skinny John, John HUGHES, and he was living with him then."

It appeared to be common knowledge among HUGHES' associates, that HUGHES had \$5000.00 hidden away in a bank account to pay for pending legal costs. JONES made the following comment in regards to HUGHES and his money, "While I was living with John, he told me he had \$5000 snookered away for solicitors fees, in either the National Australia Bank or the St George Building Society." JONES was eventually arrested in relation to the murder of HUGHES and found to be in possession of a St George Bank Account passbook in the name of HUGHES. JONES and HUGHES' relationship had soured between the two as JONES had stolen a number of personal items from HUGHES' residence when he moved out of the premises in February 1989. HUGHES was upset by this as expressed by witness Mark LOCKE in the following statement, "When Jonesy left John's place early this year, he took with him John's drugs and some cash, I think it was over \$2000-00. He also took some electrical equipment, a police scanner, a video and a television. He also took some of John's clothes. John was very upset about that because none of the clothes would fit him. John was extremely upset of this robbery as he had trusted JONES and believed he was a friend." HUGHES informed witnesses that he was going to get JONES bashed and report the stealing to Police, identifying JONES as the person who stole his property. LOCKE recalled the following conversation with HUGHES, "LOCKE said, "What can you do to Jonesy anyway?" John said, "I'll get him bashed, I've got some friends. I'll fix him. I can't believe he did this." John said, "I'm going to the Cop Shop too and make a statement about this." I said to John, "You want to be careful, you know what Jonesy's like." HUGHES would have known that this would have angered JONES and even discussed this with LOCKE, fully aware that it would provoke a response from JONES. HUGHES has possibly underestimated the response he would get from JONES however, clearly not thinking that JONES would kill him. None of the witnesses perceive that the incident was motivated by bias. The majority of the witnesses interviewed in relation to the murder of HUGHES were his criminal associates and appeared to be drug clients, as well as personal friends. All of the witnesses were well aware of HUGHES' sexual orientation, which appeared to be common knowledge. In a newspaper article printed on the 16 September 1989 that appeared in the Daily Mirror, an unidentified NSW Police spokesperson stated, "Police are still searching for a motive for the brutal murder but believe it could have been drug related. HUGHES was out on bail for drug related charges at the time and we believe he may have owed money for a drug deal. He was also well known in homosexual circles."

Dealing drugs whilst generally profitable is a high risk occupation and is clearly why Police were of the belief that one of the motives for this murder was robbery. Whilst Police at the time acknowledged that the murder of HUGHES could have been bias related, it is much more likely that robbery was the clear motive for the murder. Although found not guilty, it is highly likely that JONES was responsible for the murder of HUGHES and was motivated by money and revenge, rather than any personal bias towards HUGHES.