



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

Statement of Emily Burston

16 October 2023

This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary to give to the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes (the **Inquiry**) as a witness. This statement has been prepared from my own knowledge and also from perusing the records of the Inquiry. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1. My name is Emily Burston. My address is known to the Inquiry.
2. I am employed as a Senior Solicitor by the Inquiry.
3. In the course of my duties, I have reviewed and conducted inquiries in relation to the death of John Gordon Hughes (**Mr Hughes**), who died on 5 or 6 May 1980 in his apartment in Potts Point, Sydney.

Contact with former officers

4. On 31 August 2023, the Inquiry wrote to former police officer Michael Plotecki, who was identified as the officer in charge (**OIC**) of the original investigation into Mr Hughes' death in various records before the Inquiry. The purpose of that correspondence was to enquire whether Mr Plotecki sought to put on any submissions responding to the written submissions of Counsel Assisting and the NSW Police Force regarding this matter. That correspondence sought that any submissions be provided to the Inquiry by 14 September 2023.¹
5. On 18 September 2023, the Inquiry sent a further letter to Mr Plotecki, confirming that it had not received any submissions from him at that time.²
6. On 21 September 2023, the Inquiry received an email from Mr Plotecki responding to the above letters. Mr Plotecki advised that he was not the OIC in the initial months of the investigation, and that Detective Senior Constable Neville John Scullion was the OIC at the time crime scene exhibits were collected. Mr Plotecki confirmed that he did not wish to make any formal submissions.
7. On 26 September 2023, the Inquiry wrote to Mr Scullion to enquire whether he sought to put on any submissions responding to the written submissions of Counsel Assisting and the NSW Police Force regarding this matter. That correspondence sought any submissions be provided to the Inquiry by 11 October 2023.³

¹ Exhibit 7, Tab 96, Letter from Enzo Camporeale to Michael Plotecki, 31 August 2023 (SCOI.86180).

² Exhibit 7, Tab 97, Letter from Enzo Camporeale to Michael Plotecki, 18 September 2023 (SCOI.86181).

³ Exhibit 7, Tab 98, Letter from Enzo Camporeale to Neville John Scullion, 26 September 2023 (SCOI.86182).

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8. On 29 September 2023, I received a telephone call from Mr Scullion responding to that letter. Mr Scullion advised that he did not have a strong memory of this matter and did not wish to make any formal submissions.

Signature:



Name: Emily Burston

Date: 16 October 2023