



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

19 December 2022

Dr Linda Iles
 Head of Forensic Pathology
 Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine
 65 Kavanagh St
 Southbank VIC 3006

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Dr Iles,

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes: Expert report on death of David Lloyd-Williams

As you are aware, I assist the Honourable Justice John Sackar in the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes (“the Inquiry”). Bill de Mars, of counsel, and Caitlin Healey-Nash, solicitor, are assisting the Commissioner in his consideration of the death of David Lloyd-Williams.

The Inquiry

By way of background, on 13 April 2022 the Governor of NSW, by Letters Patent, issued a commission to his Honour to inquire into and report on historical LGBTIQ hate crimes. Specifically, the Letters Patent require his Honour to inquire into and report to the Governor and Premier on the following matters by 30 June 2023:

- 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.

Request for expert opinion

Mr Lloyd-Williams’ death is one of the unsolved deaths which his Honour is inquiring into pursuant to item A of the Letters Patent. Mr Lloyd-Williams died on 24 August 1978 at North Head, Manly. At inquest, the

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Coroner found that Mr Lloyd-Williams had “died from multiple injuries received when he cast himself from a cliff with the intention of taking his own life whilst in a state of mental depression”.

By this letter, you are briefed to prepare a written report in relation to Mr Lloyd-Williams’s death to assist the Inquiry. It is requested that you provide your report by no later than **13 January 2022**. In the event that you require further time to prepare your report, please advise Ms Healey-Nash as soon as possible.

Background

To assist you in the preparation of your report, you are provided with the following background information in relation to Mr Lloyd-Williams. This information is provided by way of summary only, and should not be treated as a comprehensive record or a substitute for your own review of the materials.

1. Mr Lloyd-Williams was born on 20 June 1946 in England. He worked as a Concert Manager with the ABC and lived in Mosman, Sydney.
2. At the time of his death, Mr Lloyd-Williams had been married to Christine Worton for six years. They had a daughter, Sarah, aged two years. In April 1978, the marriage ended.¹ According to his sister and mother-in-law, Mr Lloyd-Williams started to have “fits of depression” around the time of the separation, which worsened during the last three weeks of his life.² A colleague also stated that Mr Lloyd-Williams was agitated and restless in the period prior to his death.³
3. On 16 August 1978, Mr Lloyd-Williams attended an appointment with psychiatrist Dr J E Hoult at the Neutral Bay Community Centre after a referral from a Social Worker at North Ryde Psychiatric Centre, where Mr Lloyd-Williams had previously been a patient. Mr Lloyd-Williams told Dr Hoult that he was feeling very depressed, had nothing to live for since his wife left him, and that he had previously considered suicide. Dr Hoult noted that Mr Lloyd-Williams had previously been diagnosed with schizophrenia when he was in hospital, but that there was no evidence of psychosis at interview. Rather, Dr Hoult considered that Mr Lloyd-Williams was suffering from “depressive neurosis caused by marriage break up and loss of his wife”. He prescribed an anti-depressant. After missing a further appointment, Mr Lloyd-Williams was prescribed further medication on the basis that he would stay with his mother-in-law, Anna Worton (“Mrs Worton”), and that she would administer it. A follow up appointment was made for 25 August 1978.⁴

Circumstances of death

4. Mr Lloyd-Williams was last seen at 8:30am on 24 August 1978, when Mrs Worton made him breakfast. According to Mrs Worton, Mr Lloyd-Williams seemed to be feeling better and said that he was going home to clean up his flat.⁵

¹ Statement of Anna Worton (**Tab 8**).

² Statement of Elizabeth Margaret Lloyd-Williams (**Tab 7**).

³ Statement of Herbert Charles Russell (**Tab 9**).

⁴ Report of Dr J E Hoult (**Tab 10**).

⁵ Statement of Anna Worton (**Tab 8**).

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5. At 11:45am, Robert Steele was at the cliff edge at the south-eastern part of North Head, Manly. He saw Mr Lloyd-Williams' body on the rocks below, with waves washing over it. Mr Steele informed his colleagues, who then contacted police.⁶
6. By the time the officer in charge of the police investigation, Constable John Mortimer, arrived at 3:30pm, the Police Rescue Squad had already recovered Mr Lloyd-Williams' body. Constable Mortimer described the cliff as approximately 300 feet, or 90 metres, in height. Mr Lloyd-Williams' white Volkswagen was parked at the end of the drive to the cliff.⁷

Post-mortem investigations

7. Dr Grace Higgins conducted an autopsy on 26 August 1978. Dr Higgins found multiple severe injuries to Mr Lloyd-Williams' body. In particular, the skull was effectively shattered and no brain tissue remained within the body. A blood sample was taken with no alcohol found. The cause of death was recorded as multiple injuries.⁸

Material with which you are briefed

For the purpose of preparing your report, you are briefed with the materials in the **enclosed** index. The material contained in this index has been extracted from the court file from the Coroners Court of NSW and documents from the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Please note that the briefing materials contain sensitive images. The relevant tabs of your briefing material have been marked in red.

If there is any additional material that you consider would be of use to you in forming your opinion, please contact Ms Healey-Nash and this material will be provided to you (if available).

Matters to be addressed in your report

I would be grateful if you could address the following matters in your report, having regard to the material with which you are briefed and to the extent that they are matters which fall within your expertise:

1. The adequacy of the post-mortem investigations conducted with respect to Mr Lloyd-Williams.
2. Your view as to the medical cause of Mr Lloyd-Williams' death (including any reasons for taking a different view to that formed by Dr Higgins).
3. Your view as to whether Mr Lloyd-Williams' injuries were consistent with misadventure, suicide or foul play.
4. Your view as to any conclusions that can be drawn from the toxicological analysis.
5. Any recommendations for further investigations with respect to determining the manner and/or cause of Mr Lloyd-Williams' death.

⁶ Statement of Robert Norman Steele (**Tab 11**).

⁷ Statement of Constable John Charles Mortimer (**Tab 12**).

⁸ Post-Mortem Report – Dr Grace Higgins (**Tab 4**).

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6. Any other comment, within the area of your expertise, regarding the likely cause of Mr Lloyd-Williams' death.

The above questions are not intended to be exhaustive. Accordingly, if there is any matter arising from the circumstances of Mr Lloyd-Williams' death within your area of expertise on which you wish to express an opinion and which will be of assistance to his Honour, please do so.

I also request that you please attach a detailed curriculum vitae to your report.

Expert Code of Conduct

I **enclose** a copy of the Expert Code of Conduct and ask that you read it carefully. In the report you should acknowledge that you have read the Code and agree to be bound by it. I suggest the following form of words be included in the body of your report:

"I, Dr Linda Iles, acknowledge for the purpose of Rule 31.23 of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 2005 that I have read the Expert Witness Code of Conduct in Schedule 7 to the said rules and agree to be bound by it."

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Healey-Nash on 0466 480 286 or caitlin.healey-nash@specialcommission.nsw.gov.au if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Yours faithfully



Caitlin Healey-Nash
Senior Solicitor
for Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry

Encl. 3

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Inquiry into the death of David LLOYD-WILLIAMS

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(as at 19 December 2022)

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2.	Certificate of life extinct	24 August 1978	SCOI.73571.00007
3.	Toxicology report	7 September 1978	SCOI.73571.00015
4.	Post-Mortem report – Dr Grace Higgins	13 September 1978	SCOI.73571.00014
5.	Findings of City Coroner Leonard James Nash	23 October 1978	SCOI.73571.00004
6.	Death certificate	9 November 1978	SCOI.74028
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7.	Statement of Elizabeth Margaret Lloyd-Williams	24 August 1978	SCOI.73571.00011
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9.	Statement of Herbert Charles Russell	24 August 1978	SCOI.73571.00012
10.	Report of Dr J E Hoult	29 August 1978	SCOI.73571.00016
11.	Statement of Robert Norman Steele	9 October 1978	SCOI.73571.00008
Statements and Other Records of NSW Police Force			
12.	Statement of Constable John Charles Mortimer (Officer in Charge)	24 August 1978	SCOI.73571.00013
13.	Statement of Constable Ross Parry	9 October 1978	SCOI.73571.00009