

29/08/2023 ADJ



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

Statement of **GB**

August 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. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1. My name is **GB**.
2. I was born in 1958. My address is known to the Special Commission of Inquiry. I am employed as a disability care worker.
3. Andrew Currie was a good friend of mine.
4. At the time of Andrew's death in December 1988, I was 30 years old. I was living with my partner Nora, and our two children at [REDACTED], Manly Vale.

Friendship with Andrew Currie

5. Andrew was my younger brother's friend through school. My brother is three years younger than me, so I was three years older than Andrew.
6. Andrew and I first met in around 1970. Then he left my brother and knocked around with me for 10 to 15 years. We were mates, hand in hand.
7. Andrew was a funny character, and a good artist. He was quieter than me. He never told any stories. He was not romantically inclined towards men or women – he just wanted drugs. I think he was quite happy that way. Andrew was a good bloke and helped me a lot. I wouldn't be here without him.

Andrew's drug use

8. Andrew and I were badly affected by drugs. We would use Panadeine Forte, Nembudeine, Serepax, Valium – anything that we could get our hands on. Our main source was Nembudeine, which we also called 'N'. Andrew would use Nembudeine every day or so. We would take about 30 tablets and be on our way.
9. Andrew was my mentor and would show me how to hit all the doctors and hospitals. We would always walk around and hold each other up.

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10. We used toilet blocks or shopping centre toilets to take drugs as we couldn't take them at either of our houses. I was living with my de facto partner and children, and Andrew lived with his mother and brother.
11. We would frequently go to the two toilet blocks in District Park to take drugs. I vaguely recall the toilet blocks were opposite Mackellar Girls High School and Passmore Reserve. I believe there was also a bowling club and a creek nearby. From time to time, police would find us in the toilet blocks, pick us up and put us in a cell overnight so that we could sober up.
12. I also recall that men would attend all the different toilet blocks in and around Manly for sex with other men, including the toilet blocks in District Park.

The last time I saw Andrew

13. At about 8:30pm on 12 December 1988, Andrew turned up at my place. Nora was home at the time. Andrew didn't come around for any particular reason, he came to see me because I was his pal.
14. I opened the door and Andrew was absolutely smashed. I pulled him inside. He was virtually unconscious, so I had to prop him up. I was baiting him, asking him if he had any Nembudeine. I told him that he owed me 15 tablets. He said he didn't have any so I shook his pockets and could hear some tablets rattling. I then grabbed the bottle out of his pocket. I asked him if he was holding out on me. He said he did not want to give me any.
15. I gave the bottle back to Andrew. He sat on the floor for a while. Then he got up and said that he was going home and that he would see me the next morning. I think that we had planned to try and get tablets from another doctor.
16. Andrew was still pretty wasted when he left. I think that he had his bottle of Nembudeine pills on him. After Andrew left, we went to bed. Nora was there with me that night as it was her place. I did not hear from Andrew after this.

Looking for Andrew

17. At about 7:00am on 13 December 1988, Andrew's mother turned up at our place and knocked on the door. I do not think Mrs Currie was fond of me, as she thought I was leading Andrew astray. It was unusual for Mrs Currie to come to my house unless something was serious. I remember that she had previously come to speak to me after Andrew was in an accident on his motorbike.
18. Mrs Currie asked Nora and me if Andrew had stayed at ours the night before and I said "no". Mrs Currie then said that Andrew did not come home. She asked me what state Andrew was in, and I said "buggered". Mrs Currie said that she had called the police and hospitals.
19. I jumped into Mrs Currie's car. She asked me where we should look for Andrew. I told her to drop me at Mackellar Girls High School and then drive around to the other side of District Park. I said that I would check the toilets on the school side, and that she should check the toilets on the other side.

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20. I found Andrew in one of the toilet blocks in District Park. My recollection is that it was the first toilet block that I went into – the closest toilet block to where Mrs Currie dropped me off – but I am not certain.
21. I went straight into the toilet block and saw Andrew's body lying face down on the ground. It looked like he went down face first. There was a puddle of water on the ground.
22. I panicked and thought he might still be breathing. I turned him over and put him in a seated position in front of me. I shook him to see if he was okay. I could see that he had smashed his nose, mouth and teeth. There was blood over his face, like he had gone down and hit the deck. He had swallowed his tongue and had green bile inside his mouth, so I started raking it out with my fingers. I wanted to give him mouth-to-mouth. But then I felt him, and he was all cold. I knew he was gone.
23. I don't remember seeing that Andrew's t-shirt was ripped near the collar. But if it was, I wouldn't have thought it was important. Andrew's mother looked after him well, but we were always catching our clothes on things. Most of my clothes would be ripped.
24. I lay Andrew back down face up and waited in the toilets with him for a while. I can't remember if I checked his pockets; however, this is something that I might have done. I really can't remember but if I had done this and come across Andrew's bottle of Nembudeine pills, I might have taken them from the scene so that it wasn't recorded. I would have wanted to protect Andrew.
25. I looked out of the toilets and saw Mrs Currie walking towards me. I went back into the toilets, stood against the wall and straightened up to tell her the terrible news. I then walked out to meet Mrs Currie. She asked, "Is Andrew there?" I was shaking. I hugged her tightly and said he wasn't coming back.
26. I took Mrs Currie back to the car. I cannot recall if I went to Manly Police Station with her or whether she went alone but I understand there is a record of me attending the police station at about 7:55am that morning and then accompanying an officer to Andrew's body.
27. I recall making two statements to police officers at Manly Police Station on 13 December 1988 after discovering Andrew's body.
28. I formed the view that Andrew had stopped in at the toilet block on the way home to urinate or take Nembudeine and, because he was so out of it or because he tripped, he fell down and hit the ground. That's what Andrew and I did day and night. We hit the deck all the time. I looked like a boxer.

Conference with the Inquiry

29. In February 2023 I received a letter in the mail from the Inquiry inviting me to a conference at the Inquiry.
30. On 28 April 2023, I attended a teleconference with members of the Inquiry's Legal Team and provided them with the information contained in this statement.

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Signature:

Name:

Date: August 2023

Signature of GB