



## Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

1 February 2023

Mr John Hokin



**By email**

Dear Mr Hokin

### **Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes**

I assist the Honourable Justice John Sackar (“the Commissioner”) in the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes (“the Inquiry”).

#### **The Inquiry**

On 13 April 2022 the Governor of NSW authorised the Commissioner to inquire into and report on historical LGBTIQ hate crimes. Specifically, the Commissioner is required 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.

Further information in relation to the conduct of the Inquiry is available on the Inquiry’s website: [www.specialcommission.nsw.gov.au](http://www.specialcommission.nsw.gov.au)

#### **Death of Brian Walker**

The death of Brian Wayne Schmidt Walker, who died on 23 July 1992, is one of the deaths which has been reviewed by the Inquiry in the course of its work.

On 8 February 2023, it is anticipated that the public proceedings of the Inquiry will include the tender of a bundle of documents in relation to the death of Mr Walker, followed by an address from Counsel Assisting in relation to the circumstances of Mr Walker’s death, the criminal proceedings which ensued at the time

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and their outcome, the investigations conducted by the Inquiry, and Counsel Assisting's submissions as to the manner and cause of death.

As you know, the outcome of the 1992-1993 criminal proceedings was that the charge of manslaughter against you was withdrawn in the light of your claim of self-defence. I anticipate that the submissions of Counsel Assisting will reflect that outcome.

The proceedings will be public and livestreamed on the Inquiry's website, and it is presently anticipated that the tender bundle will be uploaded to the Inquiry's website once tendered.

### Your involvement

Having regard to the circumstances of Mr Walker's death and the related criminal proceedings, you are considered to have an interest in the upcoming public hearing and may wish to be involved, such as by attending the hearing or having someone attend the hearing on your behalf.

If you would like to receive further information regarding the upcoming hearing, please contact Kate Lockery, Principal Solicitor, on (02) 9372 8600 or by email at [kate.lockery@specialcommission.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kate.lockery@specialcommission.nsw.gov.au).

Yours faithfully,



Kate Lockery  
Principal Solicitor  
**Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry**