

39.NSW POLICE FORCE

STRIKE FORCE PARRABELL

Bias Crimes Indicators Review Form

Investigation No:	39
Victim/Deceased:	Simon Blair WARK
Date of death:	10 January, 1990
Investigation Status:	Solved
Offender/s:	N/A
Investigative Unit:	Sydney Water Police
Description:	<p>Simon Blair WARK, aged 28 years was a Technical Officer with the City Art Institute. WARK was located deceased floating in Sydney Harbour near Dobroyd Head. Prior to his death WARK was diagnosed by Psychologist: [181] with depression and was on strong doses of anti depressants prescribed by a GP. [181] believed WARK'S depression was mainly due to termination of an eight year homosexual relationship. During the post mortem of WARK the deceased was found to have multiple fractures to the spinal column, the left rib cage and the pelvis. These injuries were sustained were consistent with a fall from height. It is believed WARK committed suicide by jumping from the Gap and floated to Dobroyd Head where he was discovered. As such, no persons have been identified as being responsible for the death of WARK.</p>

1. Differences

Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Immutable characteristic differences between victim and POI's sexual orientation</i> 	<p>Simon Blair WARK, aged 28 years was a Technical Officer with the City Art Institute. At the time of his death WARK resided in a room at The Pyrmont Arms Hotel. WARK was located deceased floating in Sydney Harbour near Dolbroyd Head on the 10 January 1990. Prior to his death WARK was diagnosed by Psychologist [1181] with depression and was on strong doses of anti depressants prescribed by a GP. [1181] believed WARK'S depression was mainly due to termination of an eight year homosexual relationship (OD-629). Ex-partner and priest [1182] [1182] had known WARK for eight years describing him as "a very intelligent young man, who was affable and artistic." [1182] also stated WARK suffered from depression which would manifest itself into mood swings (ST-784). Close friend [1179], had known WARK for eleven years and was in constant contact with him until his death. "Blair sold and used LSD very heavily over a two year period." He was aware WARK was having an affair with [1182] until 6 months before his death. "WARK would tell [1179] about the bashings he received from [1182] however he was heartbroken over the break up as he treated [1182] like the father he never had." (ST-783). Both [1182] and [1179] mentioned in statements to Police that WARK had thoughts of suicide and would converse with them about suicide in the weeks leading to his death. In the days prior to WARK'S death he mentioned to [1182] "the Triads were after me". [1182] brushed it off as he was used to Blair making up imaginative stories. On the 8 January 1990, WARK arrived at the family home in a visibly distressed state. He mentioned to his father the Triads were trying to get him. In a statement from WARK'S sister, Rebecca WARK following the death of her brother, she stated to Police, "I describe my relationship with Blair as being close. I would see him regularly, usually at least once a month. We would often talk at</p>

	<p>length about various topics. I know that Blair was homosexual. I do not believe Blair had any problems with this fact" (ST-789). During the post mortem of WARK the deceased was found to have multiple fractures to the spinal column, the left rib cage and the pelvis. The injuries were sustained were consistent with a fall from height (ST-788). On the 11 January 1990 property which belonged to the deceased was located at the cliff tops at the Gap (OD-628). It is believed WARK committed suicide by jumping from the Gap and floated to Dobroyd Head where he was discovered. As such, no persons have been identified as being responsible for the death of WARK.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Victim is a member of a group which is outnumbered by members of another group in the area where the incident occurred</i> 	<p>WARK was not known to be a member of any specific group. He was a long term sufferer of depression and had been in a relationship with [REDACTED] 1182 [REDACTED] 1182 for a lengthy period prior to his death.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Victim was engaged in activities promoting his/her group</i> 	<p>There is no evidence suggesting WARK was engaged in activities promoting a particular group. [REDACTED] 1182 [REDACTED] 1182 described WARK as "a very intelligent young man, who was affable and artistic." He also stated "Blair suffered from depression, which would manifest itself in mood swings and in a desire to be with me for comfort" (ST-785). Close friend [REDACTED] 1179 [REDACTED] 1179 had known WARK for eleven years and was in constant contact with him until his death. "Blair sold and used LSD very heavily over a two year period" (ST-783).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Incident coincided with a holiday or date of particular significance to the victim or POI's group</i> 	<p>WARK'S death did not appear to coincide with a holiday or date of any significance to WARK.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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> 	<p>WARK was not a member of any advocacy group and there is no evidence suggesting he was in company with a member of any such group or any other persons at the time of his death.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Historical animosity exists between the victim's group and the POI's group</i> 	<p>There is no confirmed historical animosity between WARK and any other group or person. WARK was diagnosed with depression and was taking 7.5g of Prothiaden daily (OD-631). In an extremely distressed state, days before his death, WARK made statements to [REDACTED] 1182 [REDACTED] 1182, Ian WARK, Rebecca WARK and Enid WARK, stating 'The Triads' were after him. However [REDACTED] 1182 [REDACTED] 1182 brushed it off as he was used to WARK making up imaginative stories stating, "I was used to Blair making up imaginative stories, which he did on occasion. These stories were often constructed in such a way as to make Blair the centre of the stage, whereby people were often imagined by him to be talking about him"</p>

	(ST-784). This only serves to demonstrate one of the factors which led WARK to committing suicide and there is no suggestion that any other person or group was directly responsible for his death.
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

Simon Blair WARK, aged 28 years was discovered floating in the Sydney Harbour near Dobroyd Head on the 10 January 1990. WARK was a homosexual male coming out of an eight year relationship with priest [182] prior to his death. [182] described WARK as “a very intelligent young man, who was affable and artistic” however he also stated “Blair suffered from depression, which would manifest itself in mood swings, and in a desire to be with me for comfort.” In a statement from WARK’S sister, Rebecca WARK following the death of her brother, she stated to Police, “I describe my relationship with Blair as being close. I would see him regularly, usually at least once a month. We would often talk at length about various topics. I know that Blair was homosexual. I do not believe Blair had any problems with this fact.” During the post mortem of WARK he was found to have multiple fractures to the spinal column, the left rib cage and the pelvis. The injuries were sustained were consistent with a fall from height. On the 11 January 1990 property which belonged to WARK was located at the cliff tops at the Gap. It is believed WARK committed suicide by jumping from the Gap and floated to Dobroyd Head where he was discovered. As such, no persons have been identified as being responsible for the death of WARK. WARK was diagnosed by Psychologist [181] with depression and was on strong doses of anti depressants prescribed by a GP. There was no confirmed historical animosity between WARK and any other group or person. In an extremely distressed state, days before his death, WARK made statements to [182], Ian WARK, Rebecca WARK and Enid WARK, stating ‘The Triads’ were after him. [182] brushed it off as he was used to WARK making up imaginative stories stating, “I was used to Blair making up imaginative stories, which he did on occasion. These stories were often constructed in such a way as to make Blair the centre of the stage, whereby people were often imagined by him to be talking about him.” This only serves to demonstrate one of the factors which led WARK to committing suicide and there is no suggestion that any other person or group was directly responsible for his death.

2. Comments, Written Statements, Gestures	
Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Bias related comments, written statements or gestures were made by the POI</i> 	<p>There were no suspects identified during the course of this investigation as having been responsible for the death of WARK. During post mortem, WARK was found to have multiple fractures to the spinal column and the left side of the rib cage. A further fracture to the pelvis was also present. Bruising around the neck area of the deceased, which had been detected during an earlier aborted post mortem, was found to have been the result of a spinal fracture at the base of the skull. The liver and a number of internal organs were also found to have sustained damage (ST-788). In the Coroners findings he stated "having perused the completed file I am of the opinion there are no suspicious circumstances in relation to the death of Simon and I believe this is a matter that can properly be dispensed with" (OD-632). As such it is not believed any bias related comments, written statement or gestures were made by any persons at any time during the death of WARK.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Comments and gestures can occur before, during and after the incident</i> 	<p>There were no suspects identified, interviewed or arrested in relation to the death of WARK, as such there are no comments or gestures attributed to any persons of interest. The death of WARK was not seen as suspicious and the inquest was dispensed with on the 25 June 1990 by the Coroner. Comments and behaviour made by WARK in the days leading up to his death show WARK was in a state of depression.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Victims may not be aware of the significance of gestures made</i> 	<p>In an extremely distressed state, days before his death, WARK made statements to [1182] Ian WARK, Rebecca WARK and Enid WARK, stating 'The Triads' were after him. However [1182] brushed it off as he was used to WARK making up imaginative stories stating, "I was used to Blair making up imaginative stories, which he did on occasion. These stories were often constructed in such a way as to make Blair the centre of the stage, whereby people were often imagined by him to be talking about him" (ST-784).</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

GENERAL COMMENT

There were no suspects identified during the course of the investigation as having been responsible for the death of WARK. As such it is not believed any bias related comments, written statement or gestures were made by any persons at any time during the death of WARK. The death of WARK was not seen as suspicious and the inquest was dispensed with on the 25 June 1990 by the Coroner. Comments and behaviour made by WARK in the days leading up to his death show WARK was in a state of depression. WARK often spoke with witnesses about his thoughts on suicide.

3. Drawings, Markings, Symbols, Tattoos, Graffiti

Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Bias related drawings, markings, symbols or graffiti were left at the scene or were seen on the POI</i> 	<p>There were no drawings, markings, symbols, tattoos or graffiti left at the scene (at the Gap) or were identified on the body WARK.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Before discounting symbols, ensure that you understand the meaning of the symbol</i> 	<p>There were no symbols identified where WARK'S clothing was located the following day. Neil CHAMPION was walking near the Gap Ledge when he located WARK'S personal items. "There was a white shirt with a small black pattern on it, and this was neatly rolled up and tied with a black leather belt. Behind it I noticed a pair of metal rimmed glasses, some receipts and a small tube of ointment. I also saw some money tucked into the shirt, all the property was wet" (ST-787). There is no other information available in respect to crime scene analysis of photographs.</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
GENERAL COMMENT	
There were no drawings, markings, symbols, tattoos or graffiti identified at the Gap or were identified on the body of WARK.	
4. Organised Hate Groups (OHG)	
Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Objects or items that represent the work of an OHG were left at the scene, e.g. business cards, flyers, burning cross</i> 	No objects or items that represent the work of an OHG were left at the scene.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>An OHG claimed responsibility</i> 	No OHG claimed responsibility in the death of WARK. No persons have ever been identified as being responsible for the death of WARK. Deputy State Coroner D. W. HAND stated "Having perused the completed file I am of the opinion there are no suspicious circumstances in relation to the death of Simon and I believe this is a matter that can properly be dispensed with" (OD-632).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There are indications that an OHG was involved or active in the area</i> 	There are no indications that an OHG was involved or active in the area.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>MO is similar to known MO of an OHG</i> 	<p>No specific MO was identified in the death of WARK. Evidence suggests WARK undressed himself at The Gap, neatly folding his clothing before jumping from the cliff top, taking his own lift. During the post mortem of WARK the deceased was found to have multiple fractures to the spinal column, the left rib cage and the pelvis. These injuries were sustained were consistent with a fall from height (ST-788).</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>No objects or items that represent the work of an OHG were left at the scene No OHG claimed responsibility in the death of WARK. No persons have ever been identified as being responsible for the death of WARK. Deputy State Coroner D. W. HAND stated "Having perused the completed file I am of the opinion there are no suspicious circumstances in relation to the death of Simon and I believe this is a matter that can properly be dispensed with." No specific MO was identified in the death of WARK. Evidence suggests WARK undressed himself at The Gap, neatly folding his clothing before jumping from the cliff top, taking his own lift. During the post mortem of WARK the deceased was found to have multiple fractures to the spinal column, the left rib cage and the pelvis. These injuries were sustained were consistent with a fall from height.</p>	

5. Previous existence of Bias Crime Incidents	
Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victim was visiting a location where previous bias crimes had been committed against members of the victim's group 	<p>The Gap is not known to have had previous bias crimes occur at the location. There is no record of any previous bias crimes on the COPS system however there is a lack of converted data prior to 1992. The Gap is a well known area for people to commit suicide. A number of internet 'gay cruising' sites mention the area of south head and popular Lady Jane Beach as beat locations which are both in close proximity to the Gap.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several incidents occurred in the same area and the victims were members of the same group 	<p>The death of WARK was ruled as non suspicious and not a homicide. As mentioned above The Gap has been a well known area for people to commit suicide for many years. There is no evidence suggesting incidents of bias crime had previously occurred at the location against members of any specific group however there is a lack of converted data on the COPS system prior to 1992</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>There is no evidence to suggest that WARK had been receiving previous harassing mail or phone calls prior to his murder. Days before his death, WARK made statements to [1182] Ian WARK, Rebecca WARK and Enid WARK, "the Triads were after him." These comments appear to be unsubstantiated with no evidence available suggesting this was actually the case. WARK'S friends and family did not seem to take the comments seriously with [1182] stating, "I was used to Blair making up imaginative stories, which he did on occasion. These stories were often constructed in such a way as to make Blair the centre of the stage, whereby people were often imagined by him to be talking about him" (ST-784). They all make mention WARK was in an extremely distressed state in the days leading up to his death.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent bias incidents or crimes may have sparked retaliatory bias crime 	<p>There is no evidence suggesting bias incidents or crimes sparked retaliatory violence towards WARK which resulted in his death.</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>	<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

The death of WARK was ruled as non suspicious and not a homicide. The Gap is not known to have had previous bias crimes occur at the location. There is no record of any previous bias crimes on the COPS system however there is a lack of converted data prior to 1992. The Gap is a well known area for people to commit suicide. A number of internet ‘gay cruising’ sites mention the area of south head and popular Lady Jane Beach as beat locations which are both in close proximity to the Gap. Days before his death, WARK made statements to I182 Ian WARK, Rebecca WARK and Enid WARK, “the Triads were after him.” These comments appear to be unsubstantiated with no evidence available suggesting this was actually the case. WARK’S friends and family did not seem to take the comments seriously with I182 stating, “I was used to Blair making up imaginative stories, which he did on occasion. These stories were often constructed in such a way as to make Blair the centre of the stage, whereby people were often imagined by him to be talking about him.”

6. Victim/Witness Perception

Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Witnesses (actual) perceive that the incident was motivated by bias</i> 	<p>There were no direct witnesses to the death of WARK. WARK’S sister (Rebecca) and mother (Edin) wrote a letter to the coroner in relation to their views on the death of WARK. "Having seen and spoken to Blair only hours before his death neither of us believes that he committed suicide. Blair was so frightened for his life on Monday, January 08, 1990 (and possibly even earlier than that date). Why would he then take his life the following day?" (OD-630). In the opinion of clinical psychologist <u>I181</u> “Mr WARK suicided himself as a result of depression and loneliness” (OD-629). Both <u>I182</u> and <u>I179</u> both mentioned in statements to Police WARK had thoughts of suicide and would converse with them about suicide within weeks of his death. There is no evidence suggesting the people closest to WARK perceived his death to have been motivated by bias.</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
GENERAL COMMENT	
No witnesses expressed any views or perceived that the death of WARK was in any way bias related. All witnesses apart from his family are clearly of the belief that WARK was more than capable of taking his own life and that he was extremely mentally fragile, on antidepressant medication and unstable immediately prior to his death. Although WARK mentioned to his family and friends the Triads were after him, there is no evidence to support that this was the case.	
7. Motive of Offender/s	
Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>POI was previously involved in similar incident or is a member/associates with members of an OHG</i> 	<p>There is no indication from any of the evidence available that any other person was involved in the death of WARK. The death of WARK was not seen as suspicious and was dispensed with at the Coroners Court on the 25 June 1990. Although WARK never mentioned to any person he wanted to commit suicide if was more often than not a topic of conversation with he would often bring it up in conversation. On the 6 January 1990 close friend of WARK, [179] was with WARK and noticed WARK to be depressed. "Our conversation at this time turned to the subject of suicide. Blair and I spoke on this subject often..."</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The victim was in company of a member of the targeted group</i> 	<p>There is no evidence to suggest WARK was in company of any other person at the time of his death.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The victim was perceived to be breaking from traditional conventions or working non-traditional employment</i> 	<p>WARK was employed as a Technical Staff Officer in the print making department of the City Arts Institute (ST-783). Close friend [1179], before becoming aware of WARK'S death wrote him a letter care of Pymont hotel. [1179] stated, "In this letter I do make reference to suicide and also say that I cannot picture Blair jumping 'rite' now. The reason I wrote this was as a reference to our last conversation and was connected to Blairs' constant obsession with the subject of suicide." The letter also refers to the drug 'LSD'. When at the art institute with Blair, Blair sold and used LSD very heavily over a two year period. Since then Blair's personality has changed and it is from this period that he seem to develop his fascination with death and suicide. Whilst WARK appeared to be gainfully employed, the selling and consumption of LSD is non-traditional and may have had a detrimental effect on his mental health.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The POI has a history of previous crimes with similar MO and involving other victims of the same group</i> 	<p>There is no indication from any of the evidence available that any other person was involved in the death of WARK.</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

There is no indication from any of the evidence available that any other person was involved in the death of WARK. The death of WARK was not seen as suspicious and was dispensed with at the Coroners Court on the 25 June 1990. Although WARK never mentioned to any person he wanted to commit suicide it was more often than not a topic of conversation with he would often bring it up in conversation. Of relevance is the mental state of WARK leading up to his death. His constant chatter on suicide with his friends, his break up with [1182], his use of antidepressant drugs and he was seeing a clinical psychologist to help him with his depression show WARK was not of a stable mind at the time of his death. WARK was employed as a Technical Staff Officer in the print making department of the City Arts Institute. Close friend [1179], before becoming aware of WARK'S death wrote him a letter care of Pymont hotel. [1179] stated, "In this letter I do make reference to suicide and also say that I cannot picture Blair jumping 'rite' now. The reason I wrote this was as a reference to our last conversation and was connected to Blairs' constant obsession with the subject of suicide." The letter also refers to the drug 'LSD'. When at the art institute with Blair, Blair sold and used LSD very heavily over a two year period. Since then Blair's personality has changed and it is from this period that he seem to develop his fascination with death and suicide. Whilst WARK appeared to be gainfully employed, the selling and consumption of LSD is non-traditional and may have had a detrimental effect on his mental health.

8. Location of Incident

Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> 	<p>The Gap is not known to be a 'beat'. The Gap is a well known area for suicide. Nearby The Gap are South Head and Lady Jane Beach. South Head is mentioned on a number of internet 'gay cruising' sites. They mention the location due to its proximity to popular Lady Jane Beach which is a known 'beat'. The death of WARK is a suicide and not a homicide. There are no other listed incidents in the same area and none indicating incidents involving victims of any group. Due to a lack of converted data on COPS prior to 1992 however, there is no further information available for comparison</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The location of an incident has specific significance to the victim or POI group e.g. cemetery, religious building, historical landmark, etc</i> 	<p>There is no evidence to suggest The Gap has any significance to WARK. The Gap is a well known landmark and attracts a large number of vulnerable people who utilise the area for suicide.</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

<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

The Gap is not known to be a ‘beat’. The Gap is a well known area for suicide. Nearby The Gap are South Head and Lady Jane Beach. South Head is mentioned on a number of internet ‘gay cruising’ sites. They mention the location due to its proximity to popular Lady Jane Beach which is a known ‘beat’. The death of WARK is a suicide and not a homicide. There are no other listed incidents in the same area and none indicating incidents involving victims of any group. There is no evidence to suggest The Gap has any significance to WARK

9. Lack of Motive

Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No clear economic or other motive for the incident exists</i> 	<p>There is no indication from any of the evidence available that any other person was involved in the death of WARK. WARK’S sister (Rebecca) and mother (Edin) wrote a letter to the coroner in relation to their views on the death of WARK. "Having seen and spoken to Blair only hours before his death neither of us believes that he committed suicide. Blair was so frightened for his life on Monday, January 08, 1990 (and possibly even earlier than that date). Why would he then take his life the following day?" (OD-630). WARK was In an extremely distressed state, days before his death, WARK made statements to [1182], Ian WARK, Rebecca WARK and Enid WARK, "the Triads were after him." WARK’S psychologist [1181] was of the opinion "Mr WARK suicided himself as a result of depression and loneliness" (OD-629). Deputy State Coroner D. W. HAND stated "Having perused the completed file I am of the opinion there are no suspicious circumstances in relation to the death of Simon and I believe this is a matter that can properly be dispensed with" (OD-632).</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
GENERAL COMMENT	
<p>There is no indication from any of the evidence available that any other person was involved in the death of WARK. WARK'S sister (Rebecca) and mother (Edin) wrote a letter to the coroner in relation to their views on the death of WARK. "Having seen and spoken to Blair only hours before his death neither of us believes that he committed suicide. Blair was so frightened for his life on Monday, January 08, 1990 (and possibly even earlier than that date). Why would he then take his life the following day?" WARK was in an extremely distressed state, days before his death, WARK made statements to [182] Ian WARK, Rebecca WARK and Enid WARK, "the Triads were after him." WARK'S psychologist [181] was of the opinion "Mr WARK suicided himself as a result of depression and loneliness." Deputy State Coroner D. W. HAND stated "Having perused the completed file I am of the opinion there are no suspicious circumstances in relation to the death of Simon and I believe this is a matter that can properly be dispensed with"</p>	
10. Level of Violence	
Prompts	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> 	<p>WARK had multiple fractures to the spinal column, the ribs and pelvis all consistent with a fall from height (ST-788). Deputy State Coroner D. W. HAND stated "Having perused the completed file I am of the opinion there are no suspicious circumstances in relation to the death of Simon and I believe this is a matter that can properly</p>

	<p>be dispensed with" (OD-632). WARK'S friend [179] also suggested in his statement WARK would speak about suicide with him (ST-783). [182] suggested on three separate occasions WARK spoke with him about suicide. On the night of the 7 January WARK said to [182] the Triads were after him. This behaviour of WARK'S was behaviour [182] was used to as WARK would often be 'making up imaginative stories' (ST-784).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Weapons of opportunity are used in the incident</i> 	<p>There is no indication from any of the evidence available that a weapon of any type was used in the death of WARK. As stated above WARK had multiple fractures to the spinal column, the ribs and pelvis all consistent with a fall from height. Bruising around the neck area of the deceased, which had been detected during an earlier aborted post mortem, was found to have been the result of a spinal fracture at the base of the skull. The liver and a number of internal organs were also found to have sustained damage (ST-788). There is no evidence of external injuries which may have been as a result of an assault.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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> 	<p>There were no suspects or offenders involved in the death of WARK. The Deputy State Coroner D. W. HAND found no suspicious circumstances in the death of WARK and dispensed with inquest (OD-632).</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

The death of WARK was unexpected and was not violent in nature. The cause of death was from multiple fractures to the spinal column, the ribs and pelvis all consistent with a fall from height. Other significant conditions contributing to the death was depression. The Deputy State Coroner D. W. HAND found no suspicious circumstances in the death of WARK and dispensed of an inquest.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Indicator: No Evidence of Bias Crime (NEBC)

Comment: Simon Blair WARK aged 28 years was a Technical Officer with the City Art Institute. He was residing in a room at The Pyrmont Arms Hotel at the time of his death. WARK was located deceased floating in Sydney Harbour near Dobroyd Head on the 10 January 1990. WARK was diagnosed by Psychologist [1181] with depression and was on strong doses of anti depressants prescribed by a GP. [1181] believes WARK'S depression was mainly due to the termination of an eight year homosexual relationship with priest, Father [1182].

[1182] had known WARK for eight years and described him as "a very intelligent young man, who was affable and artistic." [1182] also stated WARK suffered from depression which would manifest itself into mood swings. In [1182]'S statement to Police he described WARK'S relationship with him as "being homophiliac. This being a strong attraction by a person of the same sex. This differs from Homosexuality in that a homophiliac is only attracted to a specific person of the opposite sex. This manifested itself in our relationship by Blair always being around me and behaving like a surrogate son. Blair was also very possessive of me and resented the church for working me to hard. Blair was aware of these feelings and because of this he was trying to work through these feelings by going to a psychiatrist and a psychologist, at my suggestion."

Close friend [1179] had known WARK for eleven years and was in constant contact with him until his death. "Blair sold and used LSD very heavily over a two year period." He was aware WARK was having an affair with [1182] until 6 months before his death. "WARK would tell [1179] about the bashings he received from [1182] however he was heartbroken over the break up as he treated [1182] like the father he never had." Both [1182] and [1179] mentioned in their statements to Police WARK had thoughts of suicide and would converse with them about suicide. This occurred over an extensive period and within weeks of his death.

In the days prior to WARK'S death he mentioned to [1182] "the Triads were after me." [1182] brushed it off as he was used to WARK making up imaginative stories. On 8 January WARK arrived at the family home in a visibly distressed state. He mentioned to his father the Triads were trying to get him.

During the post mortem of WARK the deceased was found to have multiple fractures to the spinal column, the left rib cage and the pelvis. The injuries sustained were consistent with a fall from height.

On the 11 October 1990 property which belonged to the deceased was located at the cliff tops at the Gap. It is believed WARK committed suicide by jumping from the Gap and floated to Dobroyd Head where he was discovered. There were no suspects or offenders involved in the death of WARK. The Deputy State Coroner D. W. HAND found no suspicious circumstances in the death of WARK and dispensed of an inquest.