

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of: Place: Police Station Newcastle
Jeffrey MILLER.
 CHARGED. " MURDER"- Richard SLATER Date: 28th October, 1982

Name: INKSTER Grahame Robert
 (Surname in capitals)
 Address: Criminal Investigation Branch, Newcastle Tel. No. [REDACTED]
 Occupation: Detective Senior Constable of Police STATES:—

1. I am a Detective Senior Constable of Police attached to the Criminal Investigation Branch, Newcastle.
2. On the 27th August, 1982 whilst in company with Detective Wilson, I had a conversation with a person named I219, and he supplied me with certain information regarding the murder of Richard SLATER at Newcastle on the 19th December, 1980. I also conducted a record of interview with I219, at the Newcastle Police Station on that date.
3. As a result of information received from I219 I219 Detective Wilson and I conducted numerous inquiries in relation to this murder inquiry.
4. On the 31st August, 1982 again in company with Detective Wilson, I had a conversation with I217 at the Newcastle Police Police and he also supplied me with certain information regarding this murder and I also conducted a record of Interview with I217 on that date.
5. On the 1st September, 1982 again in company with Detective Wilson I had a conversation with I216 at the Newcastle Police Station and he supplied me with certain information regarding this murder, and I conducted a record of Interview with I216 on that date.
6. About 3.45pm on the 1st September, 1982 in company with Detective Sergeant McDonald and Detective Wilson I went to the Cessnock Corrective Centre where I spoke to the Superintendent of that Centre Mr Cornford regarding an inmate of that centre Jeffrey Miller.
7. A short time later in company with Detective Wilson I saw and had a conversation with a person whom I know as Jeffrey Miller in an office section of the Corrective Centre Cessnock.

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I said, " As you know I am Detective Inkster and this is Detective Wilson, we have received information that you may be responsible for the death of a male person named Richard Slater, who was assaulted in the Birdwood Park Toilets Newcastle, about 1pm on the 19th December, 1980, and subsequently died of injuries he received from that assault at Newcastle Hospital on the 22nd December, 1980. I am going to ask you some questions about this matter and I want you to understand that you don't have to say anything unless you wish, but whatever you do say may later be tendered in evidence at a Court. Is that clear?"

He said, " Yes, I remember that, I already made a statement to the police when that happened, and I was with [1217] [1217] all day on that day, she made a statement to"

I said, " I have already interviewed a number of witnesses, who have informed me that you went into the Birdwood Park toilet alone, sometime between 12.30pm and 1pm on that day (19-12-1980)"

He said, " I never went into that toilet at all, who said I did?"

I said, " We have spoken to [1219], [1216] and [1217] [1217], they have told us you went into the toilet alone between those times to crack it with a man who was inside that toilet at that time"

He said, " Did [1217] make any statement on paper to you?"

I said, " Yes"

He said, " I knew I couldn't trust that bitch, she has always been a cunt, she just can't keep her mouth shut"

I said, " Well did you go into that toilet between 12.30pm and 1pm on that day?"

He said, " Yes, there is not much use in saying I didn't now"

I said, " I would like you to accompany us back to Newcastle police station where I will interview you further about this matter"

He said, "Okay, I suppose I'll have to face up sometime, I knew it would come to this, I want to get it cleared up"

8. I then left the room leaving the defendant in the company of Detective Wilson and a short time later had a further conversation with Detective Sergeant McDonald and Mr Cornford.

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9. A short time later I accompanied Mr Cornford and Detective Sergeant McDonald to the room where the defendant was and was present when Mr Cornford had a conversation with the defendant Miller;

He said, "Are you prepared to go back to Newcastle Police Station with these detectives?"

Miller said, " Yes, I want to get it cleared up"

10. Arrangements were then made by Mr Cornford for the prisoner Miller to be released into our custody and a short time later Miller accompanied Detectives McDonald, Wilson and myself to the Police vehicle parked outside the office section of that centre.

I said, " Jeff this is Detective Sergeant McDonald he is assisting us in this inquiry"

He said, " Yes, I have seen you before"

11. The defendant was then placed in the rear seat of the police vehicle and I sat alongside of him in the rear seat and we then commenced to return to the Newcastle area. Whilst returning to Newcastle in the Police Vehicle :-

Miller said, " This is pretty serious isn't it"

I said, " There is nothing more serious than murder Jeff"

Miller said, " What would happen if I say the old bloke had a go at me first?"

I said, "All we want from you is the truth, and I would prefer to talk about it back at the police station, but I would like you to show us what you did at the toilet on that day, on our way back"

He said, " Yes okay"

12. When we returned to the Newcastle area, Detective wilson drove the police vehicle to the vicinity of the Birdwood Park toilet block and parked the police vehicle outside this toilet

I said, " Is this the toilet that you went into on the 19th December, 1980?"

He said, "Yes"

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I said, " Are you prepared to show us what you did on that day?"
He said, " Yes"

13. Detective Sergeant McDonald and myself, and the defendant got out of the police vehicle and walked towards the front entrance of the gents toilet block at Birdwood Park and then stood out the front of the toilet,

Miller said, " I went in there after 1216 came out(at same time indicating the gents toilet block) and had a look around, I don't want to go back inside there, then when I came out I ran up to the others at the Pink Elephant Markets just up the road (at same time indicating the side gate entrance to the Pink Elephant Markets)

I said, " Have you any reason for not wanting to go into these toilets with us?"

He said, " No I just don't want to go in"

I said, " Alright then, we will go back to the Police Station"

14. We then got back into the police vehicle and returned to the Newcastle Police Station, and the defendant was then taken to an interview room at the Criminal Investigation office.

Miller said, " Can I read what statements the others have made about me?"

I said, " Yes, there is a record of Interview with, 1216, 1216 and 1217"

15. I then handed the defendant Miller these three records of interview.

I said, " You can read these records of Interview but I must warn you that when you read through them, you are not obliged to say anything in reply to them, but what ever you do say will be recorded and may later be used in evidence. Is that clear?"

He said, " Yes I know that"

16. The defendant then read through each page of the three records of Interview handed to him and after reading these interviews he said, " That's beautiful, they can get fucked now"

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17. I said, " I intend to conduct a record of Interview with you in relation to this matter and my questions and any answers that you care to give to those questions will be recorded on the typewriter by Detective Wilson as the conversation takes place, at the completion of the Interview you will be given the opportunity of reading through the Interview and if you are satisfied that it has been correctly recorded you may if you wish sign each page and a complete copy of that interview will be supplied to you for your own use. Is this course satisfactory to you?"

He said, " Yes"

18 I then conducted a record of Interview with the defendant and my questions and the answers given by the defendant were recorded in full on the typewriter by Detective Wilson as the interview took place. At the completion of that interview I said, " Are you prepared to sign for a copy of this interview which I will give to you?"

He said, "Yes"

19. At the completion of this interview I left the room and had a conversation with Sergeant 1/c Parsons and a short time later I accompanied Sergeant Parsons to the Interview room where the defendant was and I had a further conversation with Miller. I said, " Jeff, this is Sergeant Parson the officer in charge of Newcastle Detectives he is going to ask you some questions regarding the Interview we have just completed is this alright with you?"

He said, " Yes"

20. Sergeant Parsons then asked the defendant a number of questions and Miller answered these questions. Detective Sergeant Parsons then placed his signature and dated this record of Interview on the last page. then he left the room.

21. I said, " You will be charged now with the Murder of Richard Slater at Newcastle on the 19th December, 1980"

He said, " Yes I know, can I ring my father"

21. I then arranged for the defendant to telephone his father from the Detective Office and I was present with him when

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he made this phonecall. A short time later I conveyed the defendant to the charge room of the Newcastle Police Station where he was charged with "Murder".

G.R.Inkster
Detective Senior Constable

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