

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:
Death of Richard SLATER.

Place: **Police Station**
Newcastle.

Date: **31st December, 1980.**

Name: **VARLEY, Bruce James.**

(Surname in capitals)

Address: **[REDACTED] Rutherford.**

Tel. No. **[REDACTED]**

Occupation: **Ambulance Paramedic.**

STATES:-

1. I am a single man and I reside with my parents at the above address of **[REDACTED] Rutherford.** I am employed by the Newcastle Ambulance, in the capacity of Para-medic. I have been employed in the Ambulance Service for the past three years, and in the capacity of Para-medic for a period of six months.

2. I am currently employed in the Intensive Care Unit of the Newcastle Ambulance Service, and in this capacity, we as Ambulance Officers are rostered on in pairs to operate a particular unit.

3. On Friday the 19th, December, 1980, I was rostered on a 7am to 3pm shift to work vehicle number 95, which is a Ford F-100 standard size Ambulance. I was rostered to work this vehicle with Neville Barrett, who is also a Para-medic attached to the Newcastle Ambulance Service. At 13.04p.m. on that date, in response to the receipt of a telephone call, in company with Neville Barrett, I went in Ambulance No. 95 to Birdwood Park, public toilets. (WE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THERE WAS A MAN INJURED THERE AS THE RESULT OF AN ASSAULT)

4. Upon arrival at the location, we parked the Ambulance in King Street extended, adjacent to the toilet block, which is situated on the North Eastern corner of Birdwood Park. I was the driver, and I parked the vehicle parallel to the Southern kerb of King Street extended, with the vehicle facing East.

5. As the observer of the team, Neville got out of the vehicle first, and took with him the oxygen equipment, and walked around in front of the ambulance and into the men's toilet. I walked to the back of the vehicle, opened it up and got out the drug box and a cardiac monitor. I then commenced to walk toward the toilet. As I did this, a man I would describe as about 65-70 years of age, grey hair, medium build and medium height, and dressed in a light coloured cotton shirt, and dark coloured trousers. He was wearing wire framed glasses. This man said to me, "He is lying on the floor of the toilet, I went in to the toilet, and he was

Witness: **M.K. Squires.**

Signature: **B.J. Varley.**

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just lying there, and I could not make him hear me." Neville was almost into the toilet block by this time, and I just left the man standing outside and walked into the toilet.

6. When I reached the toilet I could see a male person lying on the concrete floor in the vicinity of the urinal, he was lying directly alongside the urinal, with his feet lying in the trough. I noticed that his trousers were undone, his fly was open, and his trousers were half way down his buttocks. He was lying in a pool of semi-congealed blood, which was under his head, and there was blood splattered around the walls of the toilet and on the floor.

7. The man appeared to be conscious, and he was suffering from contusion and haemorrhage from the left temporal region, there was swelling to his left eye, and he had a contusion on his left ear, and abrasions to his arms, and he had a lot of blood splattered all over him. Neville said to him, "What is your name" The man said, "Dick Slater." Neville said, "What happened." He said, "Nothing happened, I wasn't bashed and I did not fall over." I then spoke to Neville, and we then commenced to convey the man to the Royal Newcastle Hospital. I went to the ambulance vehicle and brought a stretcher into the toilet, and by this time, uniform Police had arrived, and I had a conversation with them. The Police then assisted to load Slater on to the stretcher. We then placed him in the rear of the ambulance, and Neville Barrett got into the back of the ambulance with Slater, and I then drove the ambulance to the Royal Newcastle Hospital.

8. We arrived at the hospital at 1.35.p.m. at the Accident Reception Area, where we spoke to the Resident in attendance at the A.R.A. and told him something. In our presence, he then began to examine the patient Slater. During the course of this examination, the Doctor opened the man Slater's shirt, and I could see a contusion of the chest wall over the sternum. I also observed numerous abrasions and lacerations to the face area, and considerable swelling, mainly confined to the region of the left eye. I formed the opinion as the result of my observations of the man Slater, that is, the congealed blood, and the amount of swelling of the facial injuries, that the injuries suffered had been received some considerable time before our arrival at the toilet.

9. We then left the patient Slater at the Accident Reception Area, and returned to the Newcastle Ambulance Station Dennison Street, Hamilton.

Witness: _____

Mark Jones

Signature: _____

B. Varley