

NSW POLICE FORCE

P190B

STATEMENT OF POLICE

In the matter of:	Special Commission of Inquiry (SCO Response to Summons NSWPF39	I) – LGBTIQ (Hate Crimes) Deaths
Place:	Homicide Squad – State Crime Com	mand
Date:	18 January 2023	
Name:	Neil SHELDON	Tel. No:
Rank:	Detective Sergeant	
Station/Unit:	Homicide Squad	

STATES:

- This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
- 2. I am 37 years of age.
- 3. I am a Detective Sergeant in the Homicide Squad of the New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF). I am currently a Team Leader within the Unsolved Homicide Team (UHT).
- 4. As part of my role, I am assisting the NSWPF in responding to requests issued by the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ (Hate Crimes) Deaths (Inquiry). I make this statement on the basis of information known to me and information provided to me by colleagues in the NSWPF and believe that information to be true at the time of making this statement.

Witness:

Penny DRURY Detective Senior Constable Homicide Squad 18 January 2023 Signature:

Statement ofNeil SHELDONIn the matter ofSpecial Commission of Inquiry (SCOI) –
LGBTIQ (Hate Crimes) Deaths

- 5. On 5 December 2022, the Inquiry issued Summons number NSWPF39 to the Commissioner of the NSWPF (Summons 39). Summons 39 requested the Commissioner of the NSWPF to provide the location of various exhibits associated with the investigation of the death of Richard SLATER who died 22 December 1981 (Documents). Summons 39 had a return date of 15 December 2022.
- On 15 December 2022, The Office of General Counsel (OGC) acting on the behalf of the NSWPF wrote to the Inquiry outlining the searches and enquiries undertaken in order to locate documents responsive to Summons 39.
- 7. On 23 December 2022, the Inquiry wrote to NSWPF requesting a statement from the relevant NSWPF officer regarding the searches and enquiries which had been detailed in the letter referred to in paragraph 6 above. It is within that context which I make this statement.

SEARCHES & ENQUIRIES UNDERTAKEN – DEATH OF RICHARD SLATER

- On or around 7 December 2022, officers of the NSWPF made enquiries with New South Wales Forensic & Analytical Science Service (FASS) in order to determine the location of the Documents.
- On or around 14 December 2022, Dr David BRUCE; FASS Senior Forensic Biologist and Historical DNA Casework Coordinator provided officers of the NSWPF with a number of documents, being:
 - a. A copy of a Forensic Biology Laboratory Index;

Attached to this statement and marked "A"

b. Police Exhibits Register that references the Documents;

Witness:

Signature:

Penny DRURY Detective Senior Constable Homicide Squad 18 January 2023

Statement of Neil SHELDON In the matter of Special Commission of Inquiry (SCOI) -LGBTIQ (Hate Crimes) Deaths

Attached to this statement and marked "B"

C. A copy of a P377 NSW Police Specimen/Exhibit Examination Form concerning the Documents;

Attached to this statement and marked "C"

d. A copy of a Report prepared by Forensic Biologist Sandra Ann GORRINGE dated 16 February 1981 concerning the documents referred to in Summons 39.

Attached to this statement and marked "D"

- 10. This documentation suggests the Documents were transferred to the Department of Forensic Medicine on 30 December 1980 and later returned to the custody of N J RAYMOND of Newcastle Police on 19 February 1981. Sergeant Neil Joseph RAYMOND is now disengaged from the NSWPF.
- 11. Dr BRUCE confirmed to officers of the NSWPF that FASS does not hold any of the Documents. A copy of this email is annexed to this statement and marked "E".
- 12. Between 7 December 2022 and 14 December 2022 officers of the NSWPF also made the following enquiries:
 - A search of the NSWPF exhibit management system called Exhibits Forensic a. Information and Miscellaneous Property System (EFIMS). No Documents were located as a result of this search.
 - b. All NSWPF investigative holdings - WebCOPS, Historical COPS Data, Pre-COPS data, E@glei and KODA ('Google' Style Search Engine across NSWPF systems) were reviewed. No Documents were located as a result of this search.

Witness:

Signature:

Penny DRURY **Detective Senior Constable** Homicide Squad 18 January 2023

Statement ofNeil SHELDONIn the matter ofSpecial Commission of Inquiry (SCOI) –
LGBTIQ (Hate Crimes) Deaths

- c. Members of the NSWPF attended the long-term exhibit repository, the Metropolitan Exhibit and Property Centre (MEPC), and conducted a search for the Documents. No Documents were located as a result of this search.
- d. The Newcastle Police District (being the Police District with carriage of the investigation of the death of Mr Slater at the time) advised the following:
 - Newcastle Exhibit Officer Jodie Stewart advised that there are currently no exhibits held at Newcastle Police Station that have not been categorised and entered into EFIMS. Ms Stewart advised that the only physical exhibit books held at Newcastle Police Station dated from 2005 onwards.
 - Newcastle Station Manager Sergeant Bradley Dawson confirmed that the Newcastle Police Station does not hold any exhibit books dated prior to 2005.
 - iii. General Administrative Support Officer Ashleigh Wilson advised that all case files held at Newcastle Police District have been archived. A review of the relevant case file spreadsheets was conducted by NSWPF and no documents relevant to Summons 39 were identified.
 - iv. Detective Sergeant Lucy Ede advised that they do not have any records at Newcastle in relation to the death of Mr Slater.
 - v. Joanne Beasley of Waratah Police Station exhibits advised that all old exhibits
 held by Waratah Police Station have been recorded in EFIMS and all long-term exhibits have sent to MEPC.
- e. Enquiries were made with the Newcastle Crime Scene Section.

Witness:

Signature:

Penny DRURY Detective Senior Constable Homicide Squad 18 January 2023

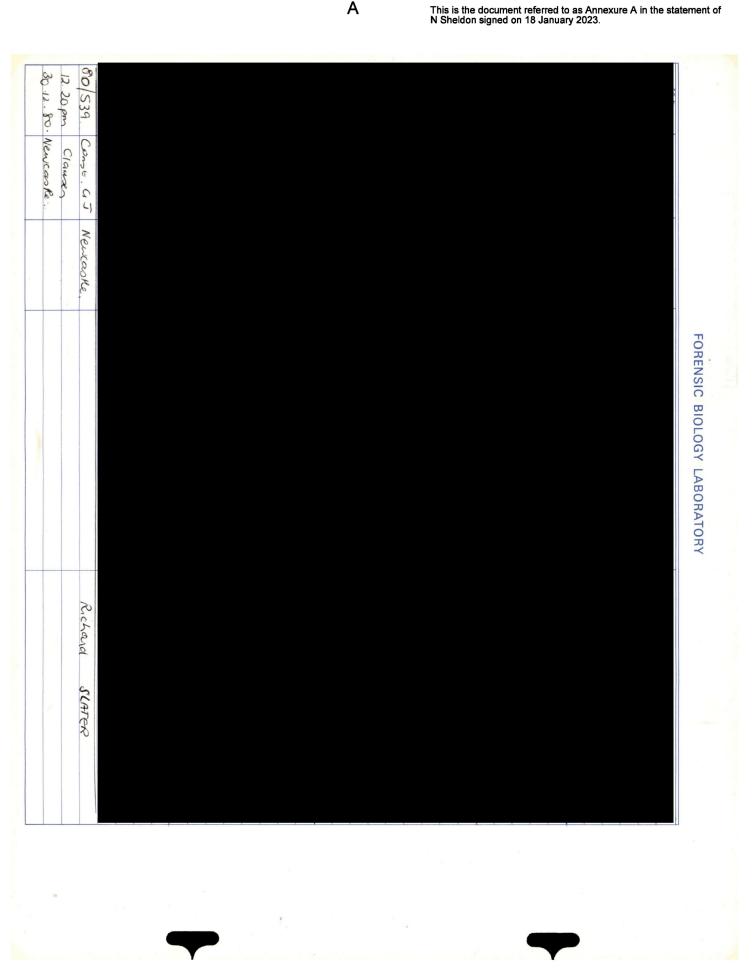
Statement ofNeil SHELDONIn the matter ofSpecial Commission of Inquiry (SCOI) –
LGBTIQ (Hate Crimes) Deaths

- An exhibit book entry was located from Newcastle Crime Scene which indicates the last movement of the Documents was from Newcastle Crime Scene to the Department of Forensic Medicine in Glebe (Exhibit Book). Exhibits dated prior to 1996 held by the Department of Forensic Medicine in Glebe have been destroyed.
- ii. A Newcastle Crime Scene Officer advised that, having sought confirmation and advice from senior officers, their records date back only to 1995 and the Newcastle Crime Scene Section do not have the exhibits or any further information in relation to the Documents.
- 13. Other than the Exhibit Book which is referred to in paragraph *12.e.i* above, no other Documents were located. The Exhibit Book was provided to the Inquiry on 8 December 2022. An electronic copy of the Exhibit Book was also provided to the Inquiry on 15 December 2022.
- 14. I consider the above searches and enquiries to be an exhaustive search of the Documents and no further avenues of enquiry are available to locate the Documents.

Witness:

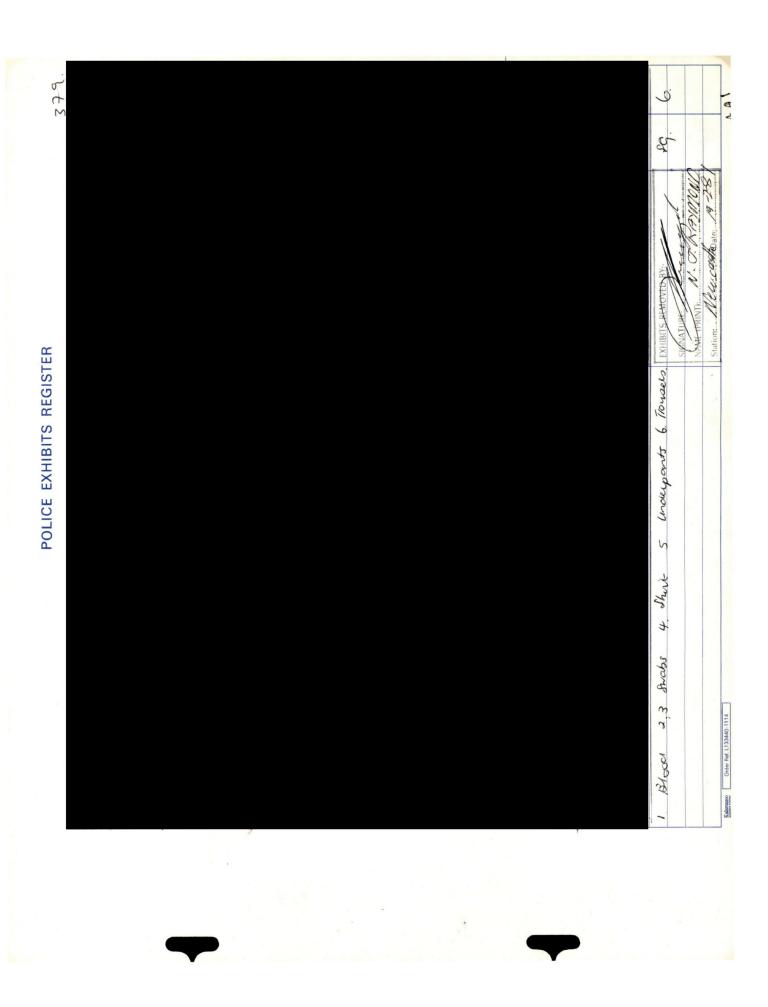
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Penny DRURY Detective Senior Constable Homicide Squad 18 January 2023 Signature:



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В

This is the document referred to as Annexure B in the statement of N Sheldon signed on 18 January 2023.

ITEM(S)	TAKEN BY	REPORTING	TOTAL
	EXHIBITS REMOVED BY.		
D	SIGNATURE:		
	NAME (PRINT):		
	Station:		
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This is the document referred to as Annexure C in the statement of N Sheldon signed on 18 January 2023.

N.S.W. POLICE - SPECIMEN/EXHIBIT EXAMINATION FORM

С

(Four copies of this form to be submitted – three will be sent, with the exhibits, to the Laboratory concerned and one copy to the Scientific Investigation Section.)

LABORATORY DIVISION OF FORENSIC MEDICINE.	Reference F5 80/539
POLICE STATION IFUCASOTE.	. Reference.
OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CASE. Det.S/C GLARK.	. Telephone
CORONER	. District.
COMPLAINANT	. Sex Age
DECEASED Richard SLATER	. Sex X Age 69
DEFENDANT/S	. Sex Age
ALLEGED OFFENCE MURDER.	

DATE AND PLACE OF OFFENCE ... 19/12/80 ... Toilet block Birdwood Park, Newcastle.

LIST OF SPECIMENS/EXHIBITS SUBMITTED.

(Ensure that all items are correctly packaged and labelled)

ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION	ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION
1.	One pair of brown and bla check trousers taken from Richard SLATER on 19/12/8 CLAUSEN.		
2.	One pair of green striped underpants taken from Richard SLATER on 19/12/80 GLAUSEN.)_	
3.	One orange short sleeve shirt taken from Richard SLATER on 19/12/80. CLAUSEN.		
4.	One sample of blood taken from the deceased Richard SLATER by Dr BANATHY on 22/12/80.		
5.	One swab taken from blood stain on toilet floor near urinal on 19/12/80. CLAUSEN.		
6.	One swab taken from blood stain on tiled well on right side of urinel.on 19/12/80.		
	CLAUSEN.		Continue on separate sheet as necessary.
	TON REQUESTED FOR: Blood alcohol [];		oxide 🔲 . Drowning 🔲 :
	icology cases) ; *Drugs (of addiction) :hemical comparison ; *Toxicology [nable liquid 🔲 .
			Virology 🗖
IMPORTAN cause of d Toxicologica	T: Consult relevant Police Instructions before eath and organs are submitted, this form al Analysis and Form P79A. † Specimens for pu	submitting this for MUST be accom athological exami	rm. *When poisons or drugs are suspected panied by completed form <u>Specimens for</u> nation MUST be accompanied by a conv o
the doctor's	Post Mortem Report and Form P79A - Rep available, it should be despatched to the Div	ort of Death to	Coroner. If the Post Mortem Report is no
Medical Of	ficer. NO EXAMINATION WILL BE MADE	of specimens	until the Post Mortan Papart is reasing

About 1.10pm on Friday 19/12/80 the person SLATER was found lying on the floor of the mens toilet in Birdwood Park, Newcastle West. It was apparent that he had been assaulted. There was a pool of blood near the urinal on the floor apparently from the head injuries of SLATER. There were also blood spots on the tiled wall of the area surrounding the urinal. The person Slater was admitted to Newcastle Hospital on that date and died on 22/12/80. A Post mortem was carried out and a blood sample taken from him.

Perhaps the items herewith could be examined for Spermatogoa and blood grouping.

Lary & llain

Gary J Clausen Constable 1/e Newcastle Scientific Section.

Specimens/exhibits herewith in custody of	Forwarded for favour of examination of the specimens/exhibits listed overleaf.
Rank. Stn. / /19	Superintendent in Charge, Scientific and Technical Services.
CONVEYED TO LABORATORY BY	CONST. IL Station N'CLE.
Name GARY J. CLAUSEN. Rank.	
Contraction of the Contraction o	

17238 D. West, Goverment Printer

N.S.W. POLICE - SPECIMEN/EXHIBIT EXAMINATION FORM

(Four copies of this form to be submitted – three will be sent, with the exhibits, to the Laboratory concerned and one - copy to the Scientific Investigation Section.)

LABORATORY DIVISION OF FORENSIC MEDICINE.	
POLICE STATION. NEWCASTLE.	Reference
OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CASE. DET.S/C CLARK.	. Telephone
CORONER	. District
COMPLAINANT	. Sex Age
DECEASED Richard. SLATER	. Sex M Age 69
DEFENDANT/S	. Sex Age
ALLEGED OFFENCE. MURDER.	

DATE AND PLACE OF OFFENCE ... 19/12/80 Toilet block Birdwood Park, Newcastle.

LIST OF SPECIMENS/EXHIBITS SUBMITTED.

(Ensure that all items are correctly packaged and labelled)

ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION	ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION
1.	Two (2) Anal States taken from Richard SLATER on 22/12/80 by DE BANATHY.		
2.	1 pair of bone soloured wrangler jeans.		
3.	1 white short sleeve single	st.	
			Continue on separate sheet as necessary.
	TION REQUESTED FOR: Blood alcohol		
	cicology cases) : *Drugs (of addiction)		
	chemical comparison □ ; *Toxicology □ y □ ; Blood grouping ™ ; Spermator		Virology

IMPORTANT: Consult relevant Police Instructions before submitting this form. *When poisons or drugs are suspected as cause of death and organs are submitted, this form MUST be accompanied by completed form Specimens for Toxicological Analysis and Form P79A. † Specimens for pathological examination MUST be accompanied by a copy of the doctor's Post Mortem Report and Form P79A – Report of Death to Coroner. If the Post Mortem Report is not immediately available, it should be despatched to the Division of Forensic Medicine as soon as it is prepared by the Mcdical Officer. NO EXAMINATION WILL BE MADE of specimens until the Post Mortem Report is received.

About 1.10pm on Friday 19/12/80 the person Slater was found lying on the floor of the mens toilet in Birdwood Park, Newcastle West. It was apparent that he had been assaulted. There was a pool of blood near the urinal on the floor apparently from the head injuries of Slater. There were also blood spots on the tiled wall of the area surrounding the urinal. The person Slater was admitted to Newcastle Bespital on that date and died on 22/12/80. A Post Mortem was carried out and a Blood sample taken from him, together with the two (2) Anal smears.

carried out and a Blood sample taken from him, together with the two (2) Anal smears. On 15/1/81 the person Bruce Colin CARROLL was arrested by Detectives for Stealing. Items 2 and 3 on this form are clothing taken from him and blood stains were detected thereon. This person is considered a suspect for the offence. Perhaps the clothing could be examined with this in mind.

Gary J.Clausen Constable 1/e Newcastle Scientific Section. 12 January 1988.

The Superintenden	t in Charge,	
SCIENTIFIC AND	TECHNICAL	SERVICES

of bary I. More

Gary J Clausen

Stn.Newcastle sis 15/ 1/1981

Forwarded for favour of examination of the specimens/exhibits listed overleaf.

Superintendent in Charge, Scientific and Technical Services.

CONVEYED TO LABORATORY BY

Rank. Const.1/c

Name Gary J. Clausen Rank Constable 1/c Received By Andre Golinge	station. New on 15 / 1	castle S,	I,S,
RETURNED TO	Station		
SignatureDate		/19	
HANDED TO ABOVE BY			
CERTIFICATE SENT TO	ľ	/19	

NOTE: When examination is completed and Certificate is received at Station, all exhibits other than blood and viscera must be removed from the Laboratory concerned as soon as possible. If the exhibit is not required the examining Laboratory should be advised immediately that the exhibit may be destroyed.

N.S.W. POLICE - SPECIMEN/EXHIBIT EXAMINATION FORM

(Four copies of this form to be submitted – three will be sent, with the exhibits, to the Laboratory concerned and one copy to the Scientific Investigation Section.)

LABORATORY Division of Forensic Medicine	
POLICE STATION Newcastle	
OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CASE. Det. Sen. Const. Clark	
CORONER	. District
COMPLAINANT	. Sex Age
DECEASEDRichard SLATER	. Sex M Age . 59
DEFENDANT/S	. Sex Age
ALLEGED OFFENCE. MURDER	

DATE AND PLACE OF OFFENCE . 19/12/80 Toilet block, Bigdwood Park.

LIST OF SPECIMENS/EXHIBITS SUBMITTED.

(Ensure that all items are correctly packaged and labelled)

ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION	1	TEM No.	DESCRIPTION	
19	Blood sample taken Bruce Colin CARROL on 15/1/81.	from			
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54					
221		· · · ·			
		1.48			
		1.5.4			
		1. St. 1			

This offender was arrested on 15 January 1981, and his clothing was conveyed to the Division of Forensic Medicine, on 51 January 1981 for blood grouping. This blood sample was taken later on 15 January 1981.

y & llave

Gary J Clausen Constable 1st Class no. 17070 Scientific Investigation Section Newcastle Police Station 21 January 1981

Specimens/exhibits herewith in custody of Const. J. Reymond	Forwarded for favour of the specimens/exhibits listed of	examination of overleaf.
Rank. Sin. / /19	Photos School Control	erintendent in Charge, nd Technical Services.
Name N J Raymond Bask Co	mat	ewcastle
CONVEYED TO LABORATORY BY Name N J Reymond Rank Co RECEIVED BY ANDIS GOVERNMENTS RETURNED TO Rank	on える / 1	/19 81
Name N J Raymond Rank Co RECEIVED BY And Gov PC	on 22 / 1	/19 81
Name N J Raymond Rank Co RECEIVED BY Andre Governe	on २२ / 1 Station Date /	/19 81

NOTE: When examination is completed and Certificate is received at Station, all exhibits other than blood and viscera must be removed from the Laboratory concerned as soon as possible. If the exhibit is not required the examining Laboratory should be advised immediately that the exhibit may be destroyed.

The Superintendent in Charge,

N.S.W. POLICE - SPECIMEN/EXHIBIT EXAMINATION FORM

(Four copies of this form to be submitted – three will be sent, with the exhibits, to the Laboratory concerned and one copy to the Scientific Investigation Section.)

LABORATORY . Division of Forensic Medicine	. Reference . FS/80/539
POLICE STATION Newcastle	. Reference.
OFFICER IN CHARGE OF CASE. Det. Sen. Const. Clark	Telephone 20441 ext. 32
CORONER	
COMPLAINANT	Sex Age
DECEASED Richard SLATER	Sex. M Age 59
DEFENDANT/S	Sex Age
	SexAge
ALLEGED OFFENCE. MURDER	
DATE AND PLACE OF OFFENCE . 19/12/80 Toilet block,	Birdwood Park.

LIST OF SPECIMENS/EXHIBITS SUBMITTED.

(Ensure that all items are correctly packaged and labelled)

10		ITEM No.	DESCRIPTION
	Blood sample taken from Bruce Colin CARROL on 15/1/81.		
AMINATIO	N REQUESTED FOR: Blood alcohol;	Carbon M	Continue on separate sheet as necessary.
rugs (toxicol	logy cases) ; *Drugs (of addiction) mical comparison ; *Toxicology	□; Flan	nmable liquid 🔲 ;

This offender was arrested on 15 January 1981, and his clothing was conveyed to the Division of Forensic Medicine, on 51 January 1981 for blood grouping. This blood sample was taken later on 15 January 1981.

ary & lane

Gary J Clausen Constable 1st Class no. 17070 Scientific Investigation Section Newcastle Police Station 21 January 1981

Specimens/exhibits herewith in custody of Const. J. Reymond	Forwarded for favour of examination of the specimens/exhibits listed overleaf.	f
Rant. Stn. / /19	Superintendent in Charge Scientific and Technical Services	,
Name N J Raynond Rank Co RECEIVED BY Sand Government To Rank	on 22 / 1 /19 81	
CONVEYED TO LABORATORY BY Name N J Raymond Rank. Go RECEIVED BY RETURNED TO Signature HANDED TO ABOVE BY		

NOTE: When examination is completed and Certificate is received at Station, all exhibits other than blood and viscera must be removed from the Laboratory concerned as soon as possible. If the exhibit is not required the examining Laboratory should be advised immediately that the exhibit may be destroyed.

The Superintendent in Charge,

FS: 80/539

This is the document referred to as Annexure D in the statement of N Sheldon signed on 18 January 2023.

DIVISION OF FORENSIC MEDICINE 42-50 PARRAMATTA ROAD GLEBE.

16 February 1981

Ret Alleged Murder of - Richard SLATER.

I, Sandra Anne GORRINGE,

hereby certify as follows:

(1)

I am employed as an acting Forensic Biologist by the Health Commission of New South Wales. My scientific qualifications are Bachelor of Science of the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

(2)

I made a scientific examination of the following articles received from Const. 1/c G.J. Clausen of Newcastle S.I.S. on the thirteenth day of December, 1980:

1. Blood - labelled taken from Richard SLATER.

2. Swab (floor)

Swab (wall) 3.

- 4. Shirt 5. Underpants "taken from Richard SLATER" 6.
 - Trousers

On the fifteenth day of January, 1981 I received from Const. 1/c G.J. Clausen of Newcastle S.I.S. the following: 7. Anal smears (2)

8. Jeans "taken from CARROLL" Singlet) 9.

On the twenty second day of January, 1981 I received from Const. 1/c N.J. Raymond of Newcastle Police the followings

10. Blood sample - labelled, from Bruce Colin CARROL.

...2/ AS

FS: 80/539 (cont'd)

As a result of such examination I find as follows:

2

Richard SLATER was a Hp 2-2, PGM 2 (subtype 2+) individual.

Bruce Colin CARROLL is a Hp 2-1,PGM 1 (subtype 1+) individual.

Human semen was found upon the shirt (item 4) and on the trousers (item 6) but there was insufficient for any conclusive grouping results to be obtained on either item.

Semen was not detected on the anal smears (items 7a & b), underpants (item 5), jeans (item 8) or singlet (item 9).

Grouping tests were carried out on the bloodstained areas and the following results were obtained. Human blood was found on all items in the table.

		Bloc	d Group	System
Number	Item	Нр	PGM	PGM subtype
1.	Blood - SLATER	2-2	2	2+
10.	Blood - CARROLL	2-1	1	1+
2.	Swab (floor)	2-2	2	2+
3.	Swab (wall)	2-2	2	Insufficient
4.	Shirt	2-2	2	Unsuccessful
5.	Underpants	2-2	2	2+
6.	Trousers	2-2	2	2+
8.	Jeans	2-1	Insuff	icient

Blood was not detected on the singlet (item 9).

GIVEN under my hand at SYDNEY

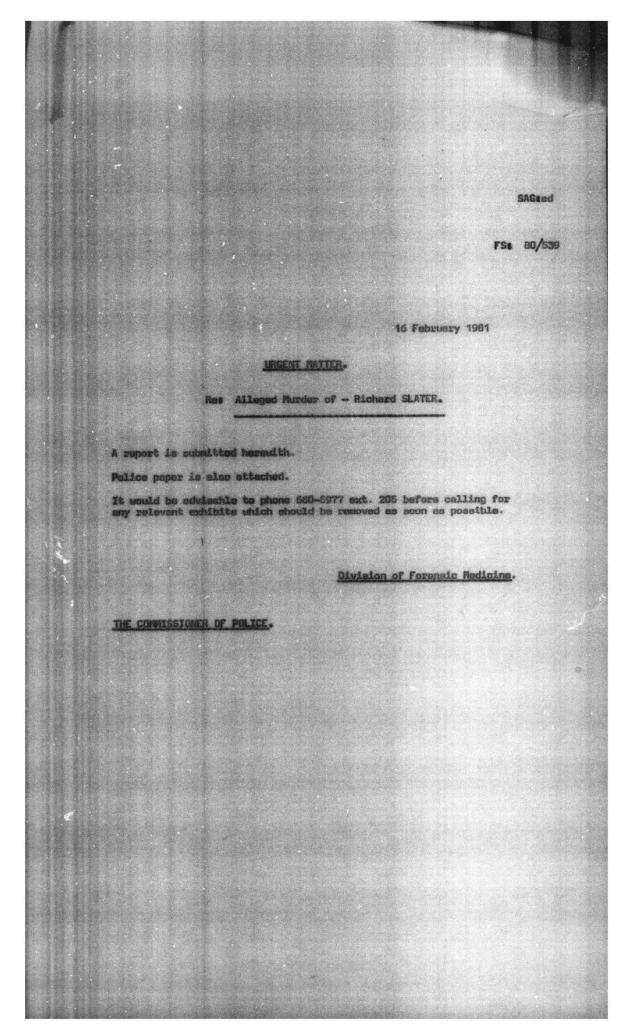
this sixteenth day of February, 1981:

ajon

S.A. Gorringe Forensic Biologist

THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

(3)



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This is the document referred to as Annexure E in the statement of N Sheldon signed on 18 January 2023.

Neil Sheldon

From:	David Bruce (NSW Health Pathology) <
Sent:	Wednesday, 14 December 2022 11:09
То:	Penny Drury; Anne Coady
Cc:	Clint Cochrane (NSW Health Pathology)
Subject:	RE: Special Commission of Inquiry re LGBTIQ hate crimes (NSWPF39) - death of
A 44	SLATER 1980 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments:	800539_Reports_14122022.pdf; 800539_P377s_14122022.pdf
Importance:	High

Good Morning Penny

I apologise for the delay in replying.

I have located the microfiche of the case file for this case (our ref. FS80/0539) and attached copies of the reports and P377s. The receipt records indicate that the exhibits were dispatched to a N J RAYMOND from the Newcastle Police on the 19th February 1981.

I can also tell you that we have no exhibits or samples from this case stored at FASS.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Kind Regards

David

Dr David Bruce

Senior Forensic Biologist and Historical DNA Casework Coordinator, Forensic & Analytical Science Service



NSW Health Pathology acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work and pay our respects to ancestors and Elders, past, present and emerging. This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender.

From: Penny Drury	
Sent: Wednesday, 7 December 2022 2:34 PM	
To: Anne Coady	; David Bruce (NSW Health Pathology)

Subject: Special Commission of Inquiry re LGBTIQ hate crimes (NSWPF39) - death of SLATER 1980 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon

We have received a further summons for the Special Commission of Inquiry re LGBTIQ hate crimes (NSWPF39). This summons relates to the death of Richard SLATER (DOB 19/04/1911; DOD 22/12/1980) following his assault on 19/12/1980. The return date for this summons is 10am on 15/12/2022.

The commission are seeking details of what exhibits are held and their current location. The exhibits in question were documented under ref FS 80/539 and were:

- 1. Blood taken from Mr Slater
- 2. Swab taken from the fllor of the crime scene
- 3. Swab taken from the wall of the crime scene
- 4. Shirt worn by Mr Slater
- 5. Underpants worn by Mr Slater
- 6. Trousers worn by Mr Slater.

In addition there is reference in the statement of Cst Gary CLAUSEN (SIS, Newcastle) of 2 anal smears, so any further information on those would also be handy. According to CLAUSEN these were all examined by Forensic Medicine, Glebe and returned to CLAUSEN between January 1981 and June 1981.

Event number E 63870652 relates, however this was created by Peter Costello in 2017 and there are nil entries on EFIMS.

An inquest into the death of SLATER occurred on 18 June 1981. At this time the clothing items were documented as being held as exhibits at the inquest. To date, this is the last reference to the exhibits that I have been able to locate.

Any assistance in regards to identifying what exhibits are held and their current location would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks Penny



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