



## Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

### Statement of Emily Burston

9 October 2023

This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary to give to the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes (the **Inquiry**) as a witness. This statement has been prepared from my own knowledge and also from perusing the records of the Inquiry. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1. My name is Emily Burston. My address is known to the Inquiry.
2. I am employed as a Senior Solicitor by the Inquiry.
3. In the course of my duties, I have reviewed and conducted inquiries in relation to the death of Richard Slater (**Mr Slater**), who died on 22 December 1980 at Royal Newcastle Hospital, following an assault in the men's toilet block in Birdwood Park, Newcastle. This statement is further to, and should be read with, my first statement with respect to Mr Slater's death dated 18 May 2023, and my supplementary statement dated 21 July 2023.

#### Contact with former officer

4. On 24 August 2023, the Inquiry wrote to former police officer Robert Ross Clark, who was identified as the officer in charge (**OIC**) of the early stage of the original investigation into Mr Slater's death in various records before the Inquiry. The purpose of that correspondence was to enquire whether Mr Clark sought to put on any submissions responding to the written submissions of Counsel Assisting and the NSW Police Force regarding this matter as at that date. That correspondence sought that any submissions be provided to the Inquiry by 14 September 2023.<sup>1</sup>
5. On 18 September 2023, the Inquiry sent a further letter to Mr Clark, confirming that it had not received any submissions from him at that time.<sup>2</sup>
6. On 22 September 2023, the Inquiry received an email from Mr Clark responding to the above letters. Mr Clark confirmed that he had been the OIC in relation to the initial investigation of Mr Slater's death until early 1981. Mr Clark further advised that, while he was willing to assist the Inquiry, given the passage of time he did not consider he could provide the Inquiry with any further useful information, and did not wish to make any formal submissions.

<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 24, Tab 77, Letter from Enzo Camporeale to Robert Ross Clark, 24 August 2023 (SCOI.85873).

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 24, Tab 78, Letter from Enzo Camporeale to Robert Ross Clark, 18 September 2023 (SCOI.85874).

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7. The Inquiry has received information that Detective Senior Constable Grahame Robert Inkster, who was the officer in charge of the investigation into Mr Slater's death at the time Jeffrey Miller was charged with his murder, is now deceased.

Signature:



Name: Emily Burston

Date: 9 October 2023