

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of: _____ Place: Manly Police Station
Inquest into the death of _____
Paul Edward RATH. _____ Date: 10th August, 1977.

Name: RATH Elwyn Walter
 (Surname in capitals)

Address: [REDACTED] Pittwater Road, Manly. Tel. No. _____

Occupation: Clerk. STATES:—

I am the father of the deceased. My son resided with my wife and I and seven other children at the address in Manly. He had always resided with us and since about 15 years old has suffered from a nervous condition. He suffered a nervous breakdown whilst in Fourth Form at school and since then was under regular treatment from Doctor Reichard.

His condition was very well controlled with the assistance of tablets and he worked for three years with the 'House with no steps' but found the depressing conditions were getting him down so he left. He then went onto a Pension. He was a deeply religious person and devoted much of his time to the Catholic Church and worked as a Catachist at the local Public Schools where he would write small pieces of prose for the children.

My son also liked to walk and since his nervous condition he would walk quite often and found it would relieve any frustrations he might have. He would walk frequently in the Fairy Bower area and had remarked previously how beautiful it was and how far you could see. He would sit on the clifftop and just relax. He was also a very clumsy person and recently complained that his legs were aching. My wife and I put in down to the tablets he was taking which would make him slow down and also affected his reactions.

I last saw my son on the 14th June, 1977, as I had taken the day off and I spent it with him. During the day I found him perfectly normal and happy and he gave me no cause for concern whatsoever. I went to work the following morning and did not see him again. On the evening he left home he was due to attend a Church Meeting at 7.30pm. It was not uncommon for him to sit on the clifftop at either day or night and say the Rosary with his beads, prior to going to Church, or just to relax.

Both my wife and I are certain beyond doubt that our son would not take his life as he never said or did anything to indicate this. While he did suffer from nerves he was never really depressed and being a very devoted Catholic person, to

Witness: _____ Signature: Elwyn Walter Rath JP

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STATEMENT (continued) in matter of: Inquest into the death of Paul Edward RATH
Name: Elwyn Walter RATH.
(Surname in capitals)

take his life, would be contrary to his religious beliefs.

Witness: _____

Signature: _____

Elwyn Walter Rath, J.P.

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EXHIBIT " 11 "
 Inquest touching the death
 of Q Rath
 Coroners Court, 44-46
 Fitzroy Road, Glebe
 (16/9/77)
 A (Clerk)



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