



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

Statement of Janice Rowan

19 May 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. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1. My name is Janice Rowan (née Rath).
2. I was born in 1952. My address is known to the Special Commission of Inquiry (“Inquiry”). I am retired.
3. I am one of Paul Rath’s younger sisters. When Paul passed away, I was 24 years old and living at [REDACTED], North Manly.
4. In the family statement for the Inquiry that my siblings and I recently prepared, I mentioned a couple of matters that the Inquiry’s legal team has now asked me to put into a signed statement.

Paul’s breakdown

5. As I mention in the family statement, Paul had a breakdown when he was in his early teens. I was only young when this happened; however, I came to understand that Paul’s breakdown had been preceded by a period of time when he had been bullied by a teacher at his high school – St Paul’s Catholic College in Manly. My father pulled Paul out of school for this reason.

Assault on Paul

6. In the statement, I also mention that there was an occasion when Paul was beaten up when he was out on a night-time walk to relieve his agitation. It is my recollection that Paul would go for walks very frequently, and that this was something that helped his mental state. In the statement, I also mention that there was an occasion when Paul returned home from a walk and he had been beaten up.
7. I know this from my own recollection. I was present when Paul returned home at about 9:00pm one night with a bruised face, black eye and ripped shirt, and informed our mother and father that he

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had been beaten up by some teenagers. I know this happened to Paul when he was in his late teens, because it occurred after his breakdown and when he was on his medication. I was still living at home (I left home at 21 years old) and was probably around 15 or 16 years old at the time. I remember how upset our family was at what had happened to Paul. I cannot remember if my father reported this to police at the time.

Signature:



Name:

Janice Rowan

Date:

19/05/2023