



## Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

21 December 2022

Patrick Hodgetts  
Senior Lawyer  
Office of the General Counsel, NSW Police Force  
Locked Bag 5102  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Hodgetts,

### Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

As you are aware, I assist the Honourable Justice Sackar in the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes ("the Inquiry").

#### Exhibits from investigation into death of Walter John Bedser

The Inquiry is considering the death of Walter John Bedser, who died in Parramatta Hospital on 2 December 1980 after being assaulted with a knife by an unknown person in his antique shop in the arcade at 4 Darcy St, Parramatta the same day.

In the course of the investigation into Mr Bedser's death, the NSW Police Force ("NSWPF") collected various exhibits, including a knife found at the crime scene. A list of exhibits collected by the NSWPF is recorded in a running sheet entry dated 10 December 1980. A copy of that running sheet entry, and attached exhibit forms, is **enclosed** for you reference.

In addition to the exhibits listed in that running sheet entry, the Inquiry understands, from an undated UHT Case Screening Form, that there is evidence that the clothing Mr Bedser was wearing at the time of his death was removed and retained by a Detective Sergeant Carter, although it is unclear whether it was tested. A copy of that Case Screening Form is **enclosed** for your reference.

Noting that it is unclear whether all of those exhibits were tested and the advances in forensic technology since the death of Mr Bedser, the Inquiry proposes to explore the possibility of the Forensic and Analytical Science Service ("FASS") conducting further testing on the knife, various blood samples and Mr Bedser's clothing.

To this end, please find **enclosed** a summons seeking production of certain exhibits (summons NSWPF49).

#### Timeframe and mechanism for provision of material

The summons is returnable on **23 January 2023 at 10:00am** and your cooperation with this timeframe is appreciated. In the event that you anticipate any difficulty with this timeframe, please forward a request for

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an extension of time in writing. To assist his Honour in considering the application for an extension, please provide a brief outline of the reasons an extension is sought and the date by which you anticipate being in a position to produce the exhibits.

Once the exhibits are located, please do not deliver the exhibits to the Inquiry, but rather inform the Inquiry of the location of the exhibits in writing. To minimise handling, arrangements will then be made for FASS to receive the exhibits directly from the NSWPF for further forensic testing.

In the event that the exhibits are not able to be located, please provide a statement or affidavit from the relevant officer detailing the searches conducted and annexing any relevant documentation.

Please do not hesitate to contact Emily Burston on (02) 9372 8538 if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Enzo Camporeale  
Director, Legal  
**Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry**

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