



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190B

STATEMENT OF POLICE

In the matter of:	Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ Hate Crimes - Exhibit Inquiries – Walter BEDSER
Place:	Homicide Squad - State Crime Command
Date:	17 May 2023

Name:	Nigel Warren	Tel. No:	[REDACTED]
Rank:	Detective Inspector		
Station/Unit:	Homicide Squad		

STATES:

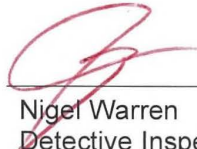
1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 57 years of age.
3. In this statement, where I refer to documents I also include their document ID number for identification purposes, in the form **SCOI.XXXXXX_XXXX** and **NPL.XXXX.XXXX.XXXX**.
4. I am a Detective Inspector in the Homicide Squad of the New South Wales Police Force (**NSWPF**). I have been a detective for 28 years, including 13 years as a homicide detective. I am currently an Investigations Coordinator within the Unsolved Homicide Team (**UHT**).
5. I make this statement in respect of the request made by the Inquiry by way of letter to Mr Patrick Hodgetts dated 9 May 2023 for a statement concerning Mr Walter John Bedser (**Letter of Request**).

3477-3837-3411v1

Witness:


 Andrew Hamill
 Detective Sergeant
 Homicide Squad
 17 May 2023

Signature:


 Nigel Warren
 Detective Inspector
 Homicide Squad
 17 May 2023

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6. The Letter of Request requested that a statement be provided addressing whether the knife used in the assault on Mr Bedser was tested for fingerprints, and the results of that testing. Attached to the Letter of Request were the following documents:
- (a) A scanned copy of the fingerprint file – reference number 80/9166. A copy of the scanned fingerprint file is annexed to this statement and marked with the document ID **SCOI.10287**.
 - (b) A running sheet dated 4 December 1980 in relation to fingerprints found at 4 Darcy Street, Parramatta. A copy of this running sheet is annexed to this statement and marked with the document ID **SCOI.45108**.
 - (c) A running sheet dated 20 January 1981 in relation to latent fingerprints found at 4 Darcy Street, Parramatta. A copy of this running sheet is annexed to this statement and marked with the document ID **SCOI.45109**.
 - (d) A transcript of the coronial inquest “touching the death of Mr Walter John Bedser” held on 11 July 1983 before Coroner Glass. A copy of this transcript is annexed to this statement and marked with the document ID **SCOI.00139**.
7. Unless otherwise stated, I make this statement based on:
- (a) my review of relevant records held by NSWPF;
 - (b) information known to me (such as in the course of recent inquiries as to the location of various exhibits);
 - (c) information provided to me at my request by appropriate members of NSWPF; and
 - (d) my experience as a homicide detective.
8. I did not have any personal involvement in the original investigation into Mr Bedser’s death, which commenced on 2 December 1980.

Inquest touching the death of Walter Bedser – 11 July 1983

9. On 11 July 1983, an inquest into the death of Mr Bedser was held at Westmead Coroners Court.

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10. As noted by the Inquiry in the Letter of Request, an exchange in the context of the inquest into the death of Mr Bedser suggests some fingerprint examination of the knife used in the assault of Mr Bedser may have been carried out. In particular, the Crime Scene Officer, Detective Sergeant Hamilton and the Coroner engaged in the following exchange (p. 5 of the transcript of the inquest, found at **SCOI.00008.00139_0005**):

Q. *You may have mentioned this, was the knife found?*

A. *Yes, the knife was found near the counter where the deceased was stabbed.*

Q. *Obviously examined for fingerprints?*

A. *Yes, nothing at all.*

Q. *Nothing at all?*

A. *Nothing.*

Summons NSWPF01

11. On 18 May 2022, Summons NSWPF01 was issued by the Inquiry requesting all investigative documents held by NSWPF in relation to 42 deaths, including the death of Mr Bedser on 2 December 1980.

12. On 2 June 2022, in response to Summons NSWPF01, the following material was provided to the Inquiry in relation to the Bedser matter:

RECORD NUMBER	TITLE	CONTENTS
REPO/B/2003/17508	INVESTIGATIONS - IIC - Murder Files - 1980	1980/75 - POI: U/K - VIC: Walter John BEDSER - Baulkham Hills - 02/12/1980
REPO/B/2003/17509	INVESTIGATIONS - IIC - Murder Files - 1980	1980/75 - POI: U/K - VIC: Walter John BEDSER - Baulkham Hills - 02/12/1980
B/2016/347	Forensic Services Group - Parramatta Crime Scene - Case Files - Box 18	80/1903 VIC: BEDSER Walter John - Murder - Parramatta - 02/12/1980

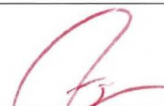
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B/2017/12966	Forensic Services Group (FSG) - Exhibit Examination Case Folders - Box 12	80/9166 VIC: BEDSER, Walter John 02/12/1980 4 Darcy St., Parramatta Murder
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13. The Letter of Request notes that the Inquiry has reviewed the material above and could not identify any record expressly confirming that the knife used in the assault of Mr Bedser was examined and no fingerprints were found, as indicated in the transcript of the inquest referred to at [10] above.
14. The material set out in the table above was provided to, and is retained by, the Inquiry in hard copy. As such, I have not been able to review the material for the purpose of preparing this statement, and NSWPF is unable to confirm whether there are any records included in this material that would be relevant to the conducting of fingerprint examinations on the knife.

Current searches and inquiries for examination records

15. In preparing to answer the Letter of Request, the following searches have been undertaken under my supervision to locate any examination records that relate to whether the knife used to murder Mr Bedser was tested for fingerprints and the results of such testing:
- (a) Searches of the NSWPF exhibit management system - Exhibits Forensic Information and Miscellaneous Property System (**EFIMS**). The EFIMS system catalogues exhibits maintained by NSWPF, as well as examination requests and results.
 - (b) Searches of all NSWPF investigative holdings – WebCOPS, Historical COPS Data, Pre-COPS data, E@glei and KODA ('Google' Style Search Engine across NSWPF systems).
16. For each of the searches detailed in [15] above, no records that pertain to either the examination or results of an examination of any fingerprints on the knife in the Bedser matter were able to be identified.

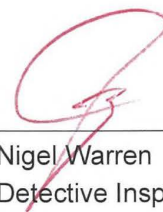
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17. In addition to the searches above, enquiries were also made with Forensic Evidence and Technical Services (**FETS**). FETS maintains the exhibit and exhibit records for cold cases and works closely with UHT on cold cases.
18. Senior Sergeant Anne Coady, Coordinator - Cold Case, DNA Management Unit is the contact point for UHT within FETS for these types of requests. Senior Sergeant Coady located and reviewed an internal register used at the time of Mr Bedser's death known as the 'Red Book'. The 'Red Book' was essentially a diary used by Crime Scene staff to record when and where examinations occurred. The 'Red Book' is retained and stored by FETS.
19. Senior Sergeant Coady has advised that from her review of the 'Red Book' there is no indication as to whether the knife was tested for fingerprints and if so, the results of such testing. A copy of 'Red Book' is annexed to this statement with the document ID **NPL.0100.0012.0001**.
20. Senior Sergeant Coady was also asked to review the fingerprint file (**SCOI.10287**). She advised that from her review of that file, there is nothing to indicate whether the knife was tested for fingerprints and if so, the results of such testing.
21. Finally, on 16 May 2023, I was able to contact and speak with former Detective Sergeant Hamilton by telephone, being one of the detectives who gave evidence at the inquest into Mr Bedser's death, referred to at [10] above.
22. Mr Hamilton is now 84 years old. He indicated to me that he recalls the Bedser case, although understandably with gaps in his memory. He recalled that the crime scene was a second-hand shop at Darcy Street, Parramatta, that the shop had a glass counter, and that Mr Bedser owned a "flash" American vehicle with timber sides known as a "Ranch Wagon".
23. Mr Hamilton also recalled that Mr Bedser had been stabbed, but had no memory of the inquest into Mr Bedser's death. When I read to him the passage of the transcript set out at [10] above, he expressed the view that the knife would have been examined for fingerprints because "that is the way we operated, definitely", and that the answer "Yes, nothing at all" would likely mean the knife was examined for fingerprints but no fingerprints could be located.

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24. I consider the above additional searches and enquiries to be exhaustive. With the exception of the material already provided to the Inquiry, in my opinion there are no further avenues of enquiry that are available to ascertain conclusively whether the knife was tested for fingerprints and the results of such tests.

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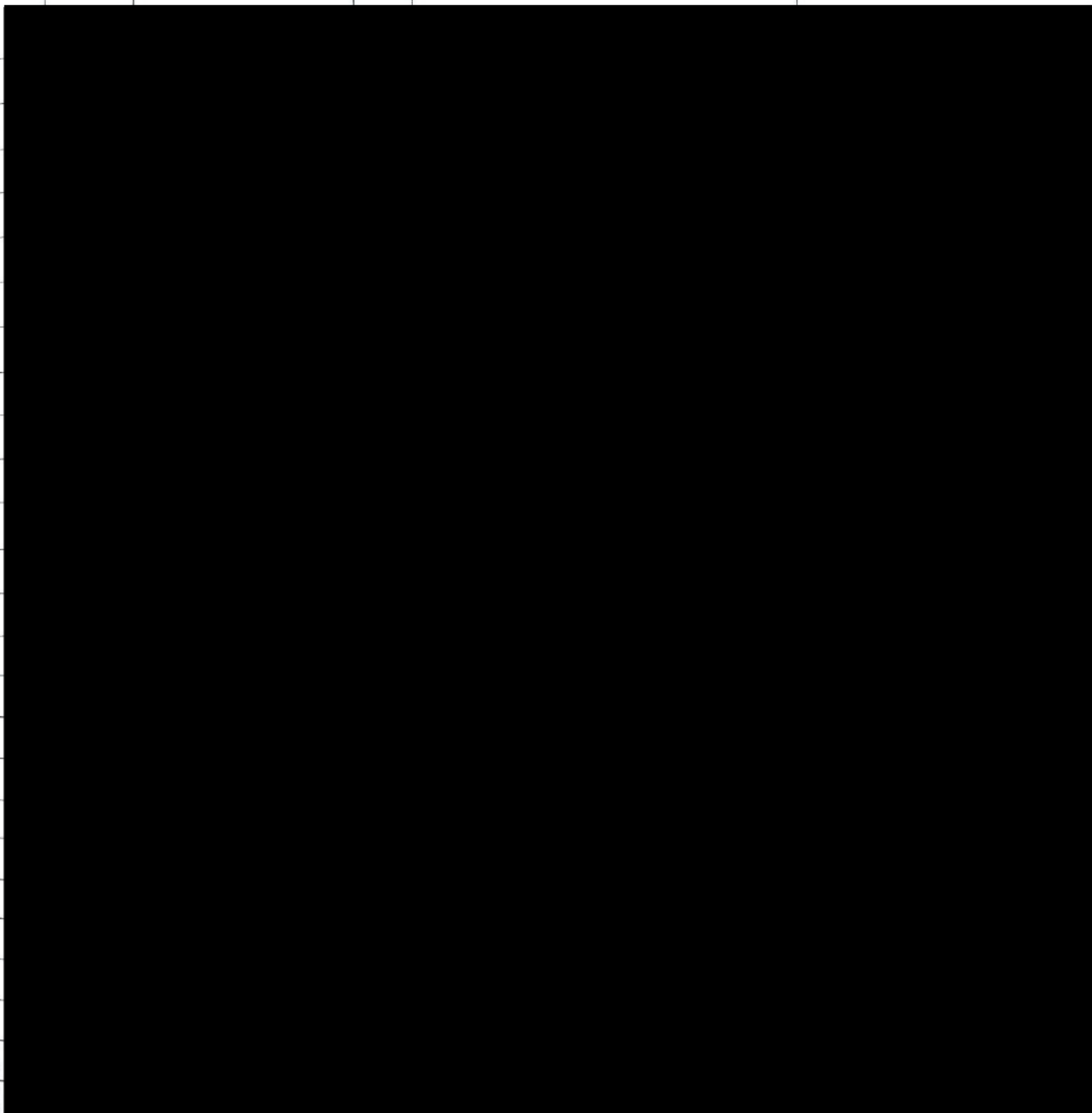
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17 May 2023

453

43668K 1.78

No.	Date	Received from	No. and particulars of exhibit	Result
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17-12-80	7am	Spm	Then to exam prem. BEDSER, Shop 4, Darcy St, Parramatta of shop.	Yes Ph B' on BOLD from near office re: Murder Genev BOWL.
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The O.I.C. *Pets* *Parramatta* DATE *15 12 86*

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PLEASE SIGN and LATENT FINGERPRINT UNIT, 8th Floor,
RETURN TO..... 130 George Street, Parramatta, 2150.
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EXHIBIT RECEIPT.....Received from the Latent Fingerprint Unit the
following...../..... COLOURED ^{CHINESE} BOWLS FROM - BEDSFR -
..... *Shot 4* *Darcy St - Parramatta*

EXHIBIT/ No. *80/9533* BOOK No. *59* Page No. *453*

POSTED/DELIVERED RECEIVED By:-
BY..... *BUSH*

ON *15/12/86* RANK *D/Sgt* DATE *15/12/86*

Reg No. *16625*

No.	Date	Received from	No. and particulars of exhibit	Result
17-2-81	7am	5pm M 81/1415 81/111GN	C/c Butterfield do con from <u>BEDSER</u> PARRAMATTA ANTIQUE SHOP 4 Darcy Street Parramatta (Murder) Re: BES	yes Ph "G" an galvanised iron & an wire cask. "NIN" on cardboard boxes. RESULT: YES JOB NO: 178GN

No.	Date	Received from	No. and particulars of exhibit	Result
179	19-2-81	Dets/C Roots	M D/C R. Ford exam ex's re:	Nin on:-
8/14/5		P'matta	BEDSER	1 searchlight
Metro books	8/1/11 gn-1		Parriamatta re: Murder	newspaper (porno) YES 1 piece of cardboard with songs pasted
	8/1/11 gn-2		to it	YES
	8/1/11 gn-3		1 Piece of cardboard with songs pasted on to it + writing in blue biro thereon	YES
			Nin on 2 cardboard boxes.	NO
			1 book	NO
			+ Pages of Pornographic literature	NO