



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

Statement of Emily Burston

21 August 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 Walter Bedser (**Mr Bedser**), who died on 2 December 1980 at Parramatta Hospital in NSW following an assault that day at his antique shop at 4 Darcy St Parramatta. This statement is further to, and should be read with, my first statement with respect to Mr Bedser's death dated 23 May 2023.

Witness statements

4. On 9 May 2023, I sent email correspondence to a person likely to be Mr Bedser's solicitor, Bruce Macdonald, seeking to confirm that fact and obtain any further records regarding Mr Bedser in his possession. On 9 June 2023, Mr Macdonald made telephone contact with the Inquiry. On 5 July 2023, Mr Macdonald provided a statement to the Inquiry.¹
5. On 26 May 2023, Raymond Hadley contacted the Inquiry by email following discussion of his statement to the original investigation at the public hearing regarding Mr Bedser's death held by the Inquiry on 24 May 2023. On 30 June 2023, I attended a conference with Mr Hadley and Counsel Assisting to discuss his recollections of Mr Bedser's death and the police investigation at that time. On 13 July 2023, Mr Hadley provided a statement to the Inquiry.²
6. On 11 July 2023, an investigator from the Inquiry made telephone contact with Amani Youssef for the purpose of discussing her interview with police in the course of the original investigation. On 16 August 2023, Ms Youssef provided a statement to the Inquiry.³

¹ Exhibit 28, Tab 172, Statement of Bruce Macdonald, 5 July 2023 (SCOI.85168).

² Exhibit 28, Tab 173, Statement of Raymond Morris Hadley, 13 July 2023 (SCOI.85170).

³ Exhibit 28, Tab 174, Statement of Amani Ezzat Youssef, 10 August 2023 (SCOI.85169).

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Production of additional documents

7. On 25 June 2023, the New South Wales Police Force (**NSWPF**) advised the Inquiry that it had identified additional documents relating to Mr Bedser's death responsive to the summons issued by the Inquiry for all investigative material relating to the death of Walter Bedser on 18 May 2022 (NSWPF1). The documents amounted to a further 68 pages, primarily comprising records relating to reviews undertaken of this matter by the Unsolved Homicide Team (**UHT**) in 2007-2008 and the Senior Detectives Course in 2011.

Signature:



Name: Emily Burston

Date:

21/8/23