

New South Wales Police

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STATEMENT in the matter of:
Murder of David ROSE.

Place: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date : 5 January 1998

Name: Donna Ann DEVITT

Address: [REDACTED]

Tel. No.: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Legal Secretary

STATES:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which 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 shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

2. I am 40 years of age.

3. I first met David ROSE about ten to twelve years ago through the radio station 2RPH and a person called Sandra DURWARD. I have known Sandra for about eighteen years. At the time I met David he was teaching me to be an announcer at the radio station. I was never eventually employed at the radio station but kept in contact with David through Sandra.

4. In the time that I knew David I found him to be a very helpful and very nice guy. He was overt in his cross dressing and within the last two years he had told me that he was taking hormone tablets to become a female. I did not know of any enemies of David and would find it hard to believe anyone would become one. He was an inoffensive person. He kept very much to himself in his private life.

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5. David would often speak to me about his sexuality and never told me of any interest in men or women and I believed him to be asexual. He just wanted to be a woman. During my more recent conversations with David he did not express any concerns regarding his well being or any person he was having trouble with. I do not know of anyone who would want to hurt David.

6. During the last eight months I have spoken to David on a regular basis. I last saw David about two months ago when he came over to my house for dinner. I have spoken to him numerous times since then usually by telephone.

7. Our main reason for communicating was because of our concerns for Sandra DURWARD. Sandra used to be my best friend and was a good friend of David. Sandra was having problems with alcohol and Heroin and this was causing concern between us and other friends. She would be constantly contacting people to stay at their house and they would be refusing to allow her to stay because of her problems. There was also the concern that she may steal property belonging to friends because of her substance abuse and David had become aware of this and he was worried about her staying at his unit.

8. During the last months my husband and I have had problems with Sandra turning up unannounced at our front door step. She was trying to get in so she could stay at our house but we would not let her in. On one occasion we actually had to call the police because she refused to go. Sandra has never made any threats towards me nor have I ever seen her violent. In fact I would describe her as a victim of violence from her previous relationship with Paul HILTON.

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9. During my conversations with David he mentioned that Sandra had stayed at his unit for about a week. I don't remember when this was but it was about four or five months ago. He mentioned that he noticed his bottles of methylated spirits disappearing but it didn't make sense until he realised that Sandra was drinking it obviously because of her drinking problems. I doubt if Sandra stayed at David's after this incident.

10. Sandra's condition started to deteriorate from this time on especially when she entered Jarrah House. Perhaps two months before Christmas I know that David had told her that she was not welcome to stay at his unit anymore because of her problems. I know, as with all of us, he was not happy to turn her away but he thought it was best because she had to find help. She continually lied about things and became a manipulator and we all were of the opinion that our friendship could no longer be as a result of her problem.

11. I have spoken to Sandra by telephone on a number of times approximately one month prior to David's death. She told me that she was working at a brothel and she denied still drinking alcohol and taking drugs. I last saw Sandra at David's funeral but I have not spoken to her since. She left a message on my answering machine on the night of the funeral to contact her urgently regarding something nasty and serious that was worrying her. I did not contact her and she hasn't spoken to me since although she left a message to ring her two nights ago.

12. Despite her problems I would say that Sandra would not be directly involved in the death of David ROSE. David's life was the radio station and work at Westpac.

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He didn't drink or smoke nor to my knowledge did he socialise at gay bars or the like. I cannot think of anyone who would have hurt David ROSE. I have only been to David's unit once that I recall and that was prior to 1990 before I moved to Malaysia uin July 1990. I have not been there since.

Witness: 

P. THORNTON
DET SEN CDR
5.1.98

Signature: 