



David Rose, 41, who was bashed to death wearing women's clothes in his kitchen

Woman 'must have killed'

Cross-dresser's inquest hears

By RACHEL RODDA

A WOMAN who had access to the home of cross-dressing Westpac computer expert David Rose told a workmate she "must have killed" him, an inquest into his death heard yesterday.

Mr Rose was bashed to death in his Kensington unit just before Christmas two years ago.

An inquest into his death was told yesterday that a "security conscious" Mr Rose was probably killed by someone he knew, with his killer locking the door from the outside.

Mr Rose's close friend Sandra Durward faced three hours of questions at Glebe Coroners Court about her movements on the weekend of his death.

The court was told Ms Durward was often given a spare set of keys to Mr Rose's unit, had bruises on her face after his death and told her co-workers that she

"must have killed" him.

Ms Durward, a recovering heroin addict, alcoholic and prostitute at two St Marys brothels, denies seeing Mr Rose on the weekend of his death.

Ms Durward is relying on friend David Thwaites for an alibi, claiming they attended an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting together on the day of Mr Rose's death, before she started work at two St Marys brothels later that night.

The court heard Ms Durward met Mr Rose through their volunteer work for community radio station 2RPH, where Mr Rose worked as a trainer, producer and announcer.

Ms Durward read newspapers and magazines on radio for sight-impaired listeners.

In his full-time work, Mr Rose worked as a computer specialist in telephone banking with Westpac.

The court heard Mr Rose took Ms Durward into his home whenever she had fall-

en out with her friends due to her alcoholism.

Ms Durward denied yesterday having his house keys with her when Mr Rose was killed.

She denied telling co-workers that she had killed Mr Rose, telling one colleague after Mr Rose's funeral that a "hideous realisation has struck me, it's quite nasty and quite serious".

In police evidence tendered to the court, Ms Durward told prostitute Nazeem Hudson that she "must have done it in my sleep".

"I must have killed that guy. Didn't you see it on television. The cross-dresser. I couldn't have done it, he's my best friend," she told Ms Hudson.

Ms Durward yesterday put these comments down to "stress and a highly inappropriate sense of humour".

Magistrate and acting State Coroner John Abernethy called for police to search for Mr Thwaites, and adjourned the hearing until November 17.