



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

Statement of Betty Ernst

24 April 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 as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1. My name is Betty Ernst. My address is known to the Special Commission of Inquiry.
2. In this statement I set out my recollection of matters relating to the death of Wendy Waine (formerly Wayne Brennan). The contents of this statement are true to the best of my recollection, bearing in mind that the events occurred over 38 years ago.

My relationship with Wendy

3. I knew Wendy as Wayne, my youngest brother. At the time of her death I lived in East Maitland. We spoke every two or three days over the phone, and I would take my children to visit Wendy in Sydney during the school holidays. Wendy had many friends from all walks of life, and I had met a number of them over the years.
4. I was aware, from my conversations with Wendy that she had a friendship with a police officer, and that they went out for dinner a few times. I didn't know his name.
5. I had no knowledge of Wendy having any relationship with a security officer. I only heard about that possibility after her death.

Observations of Wendy's apartment

6. I attended Wendy's one bedroom apartment in Darlinghurst a couple of weeks after her death with my eldest son Stephen. That happened after the police told me they had been through the apartment and taken fingerprints.

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7. When I entered the lounge room of the apartment, everything looked in order. The TV was still on, which I recall thinking was unusual. There was black coating on all the furniture, including on the white lounge, which I understood to be for the purposes of taking fingerprints. There was no sign of anyone else living in the apartment at that time.
8. My son entered the bedroom first, and came out to assure me it was fine to enter. The bed was in the middle of the bedroom, and there was a wall on the left-hand side. The bedding was still in disarray. I do not recall there being any blood on the bed or on the floor. I do not know if somebody had arranged for the blood to be cleaned away before we entered.
9. The floor of Wendy's bedroom was carpeted. There was no sign that the police had lifted the carpet up during their searches. I can not recall any trip hazards or signs that the carpet had been pulled away from the wall.
10. I saw what I believed to be a bullet hole in the wall at the lefthand side of the bed. I recall that there was a smaller hole, surrounded by gyprock or plaster that appeared to have been gouged or dug around. A few days later I called the detectives and they confirmed to me that this was a bullet hole and they had not found any bullet or casings.
11. I do not recall seeing any bullet hole in either the bed or the carpet.
12. I do not recall the police telling me they had taken any exhibits.
13. I recall that Wendy always left his bag, wallet and keys on a stand near the front door. When we entered the apartment there was nothing on the stand, which I found to be highly unusual.
14. I don't recall finding or seeing a brown bag.
15. At the time the police provided me with the keys to the apartment, they also handed me a small plastic bag containing some of Wendy's jewellery. In the bag, I recall there being a brown men's wallet with a few dollars in it, a silver chain and two religious crosses on chains. I was advised the jewellery in this bag was what Wendy was wearing at the time of her death.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty Ernst". The letters are cursive and connected.

Statement of Betty Ernst

Name:

Betty Ernst

Date:

24.04.2023

Statement of Betty Ernst

Signature:

Name:

Date: