



## Senior Detectives Course Unsolved Homicide Assessment

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### Instructions for the Unsolved Homicide Assessment Panel

1. This assessment is prepared in conjunction with the Unsolved Homicide Unit who rely upon the recommendations of syndicates
2. Each syndicate has been provided with this document
3. You are assessing (a) a verbal briefing as to content and communication (b) the quality of the briefing document
4. Ask the five questions in the order they appear in this document
5. Give each syndicate member an opportunity to answer **one** question
6. Nominate syndicate members in a random order
7. Each panel member is asked to record the answer provided
8. The panel will be asked to provide feedback at a group debrief

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Assessor's Name/rank

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**SYNDICATE GROUP NUMBER:**

**Question 1 Participant:**

**What are the circumstances of the offence?**

**How did your syndicate manage the task of reviewing the unsolved homicide?**

*Answer Provided/Comment -*

**Synopsis:**

The deceased was a working transsexual prostitute who resided in unit [redacted] Darlinghurst Road Darlinghurst NSW. The deceased resided alone and had a prior domestic relationship with **NP179**

The last confirmed sighting of the deceased was at 3:15am on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 1985 walking past Premier Lane in Darlinghurst. At the time the deceased was with an unknown male who is believed to have been a client. The deceased was located by **I230** at 12:00pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 1985.

The deceased was found alongside the bed with two bullet wounds and Police attended shortly afterwards. An examination of the crime scene located exhibits however no ballistic evidence such as casings or rounds were located at the scene.

There are no known suspects however there are two (2) persons of interest.

The 1<sup>st</sup> POI is **NP179** (nominated by friends & associates) who had a domestic relationship with the deceased at the time. The POI was at the time a security guard who had access to hand guns. **NP179** was interviewed by investigators at the time of the murder and stated that he only used a Browning .32 calibre pistol whilst working with MSS security.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> POI is **NP178** who appears to have been identified by a fingerprint impression located within the victim's premises. **NP178** was interviewed as a suspect some six (6) years after the said offence. There is little information within the case files to establish how Mr **NP178** was identified as a suspect. **NP178** provided reasonable doubt as he used to be a client of the deceased and also the previous occupier of the residence.

The most pertinent line of enquiry is to re-examine the exhibits that were seized from the crime scene and the deceased. Those items being; anal swab, hair and cigarette butts.

To manage the review, each syndicate member read the case file to identify lines of enquire and investigative opportunities. The team met as a group and discussion took place to examine these lines of enquire and the investigation in its entirety.


Circle one of the following relative to the **content** of the answer –

Above average      Average      Below average

Circle one of the following relative to the **communication** of the answer –

Above average      Average      Below average

Comment -

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## Question 2 Participant:

What lines of inquiry were identified in the original investigation and did your review identify new lines of inquiry?

**If yes**, specify the new lines of inquiry and why they were not investigated during the original investigation including how you would prioritise each?

**If no**, how did the original team investigate each line of inquiry and why do you consider it to be adequate?

### Answer Provided / Comment -

There were a number of lines of enquire within the original investigation that took place. It appears this review was made without the entire contents of the brief.

- The victim's former domestic partner [NP179] was interviewed as a suspect with no other provided material. He had access to firearms as part of his employment with MSS security. Does not appear the firearms access register was checked at his place of employment, or employees interviewed from his workplace. Other information suggested that a male in a MSS security uniform was seen entering the unit on the day or day before the deceased was located
- Other information was obtained to suggest that [NP179] was employed at Long Bay Gaol, and had been intimately involved with a number of male/transsexual prostitutes who had died of heroin overdoses. Other information was obtained to suggest that [NP179] was living with and possibly intimately involved with [REDACTED] who died of a heroin overdose on 27 December 1985.
- Crime scene examination of the victim's premises. This included a search for Ballistic evidence and fingerprints. A fingerprint impression was located which identified [NP178]. [NP178] Cigarette Butts were also located within the premises which with advancements in DNA technology, could be submitted for retesting
- A forensic examination of the victim which appears incomplete. Although semen was not detected on the anal swab, advancements in DNA technology may yield a DNA identification if the item was retested. Also, the hair sample appears to have not yet been submitted for examination
- A "Gay Hate Crime", as evidenced by people calling the police and 2UE claiming responsibility for the offence
- Person of interested 'David', a 'police officer', who used to be in a de facto relationship with the deceased. Subsequently identified as [NP180] however, enquiries appear to discount his involvement. There does not appear to be any information regarding his access to firearms or his whereabouts at the time of the incident, despite reports that 'David' was hassling the deceased, and on one occasion had slammed the door in the face of 'David'.
- Person of interest 'David' a prison officer at Long Bay Gaol, as nominated by an inmate serving a custodial sentence for murder. There is no apparent information contained in the case file regarding this line of enquiry. Personnel records could be checked to try and identify this guard
- Transvestite [I231] returning to New Zealand post offence and reportedly coming into wealth at this time, possibly as a result of stealing the deceased's cash
  - Disgruntled sex worker murdering the deceased
  - Other sex workers were interviewed by police in relation to knowledge of motive to kill deceased. Differing accounts that deceased was well liked, whilst others suggested

she was not

- Deceased's business interest in the plant shop, and fired employee "Meagan" who may be disgruntled and have a motive for murder
- Deceased's business interest in "Peats Beat", joint financial interests with owner David COOK in the form of a passbook, and reported ill feeling between the two in relation to the running of the business. Also the alleged threat of George MIHAIL to rob the deceased. There is no statement from George MIHAIL and MIHAIL has history for armed robbery and theft offences.
- the wallet of [1244] located in the deceased's unit, which contained a firearms licence
- investigators did interview [1244] who explained he had lost his wallet, although there appears to be no further enquiries in relation to any owned firearms or access to firearms
- 'Miss Cindy' sex work advertisement of the deceased, in Telegraph and Wentworth Courier
- On face value this was not really considered and given the passage of time it would not be possible to take this any further re RCCR's etc
- Involvement of [NP176] and Danny SHAKESPEARE in the offence, with admissions reportedly made to Danny by [NP176] re the murder. Both POI's interviewed however enquiries do not appear to progress any further than that. Possibility for covert evidence gathering in respect of these persons of interest
- prior tenant and former Crown witness [NP181] and alleged threats to kill him and possible opportunity for 'mistaken identity' in murder of deceased
- intelligence collection plan re similar homicides, sexual assaults and firearms incidents temporally and geographically coincident to the deceased's murder
- establish the location of the deceased's 'trick book', a diary which allegedly contained the particulars of all of the deceased's clients: There appears to be no information in the case file to suggest whether this was located or searched for or not
- interview of [REDACTED] two transsexual prostitutes, who allegedly had a client who got sexual gratification from using a gun during sex, and played 'russian roulette'. These two sex workers do not appear to have been interviewed
- follow-up of identification of 'Bill', prostitute client with an inverted crucifix on his left hand who was last seen with the deceased. POIENQ search on COPS could be conducted in conjunction with a search of PhotoTrac

Circle one of the following relative to the **content** of the answer –

Above average      Average      Below average

Circle one of the following relative to the **communication** of the answer –

Above average      Average      Below average

Comment -

Question 3 Participant:

What information management system was used during the investigation and did this differ from how the information would be managed if the offence occurred today?

If the investigation occurred within the last ten years (eagle-i), comment on the thoroughness of the information management?

Answer Provided / Comment -

The investigation took place in 1985 and was managed on the 'Running Sheets'. This greatly differs from how the investigation would be managed today.

Multiple horizontal lines for writing an answer or comment.

Circle one of the following relative to the **content** of the answer -

Above average      Average      Below average

Circle one of the following relative to the **communication** of the answer -

Above average      Average      Below average

Comment -

Multiple horizontal lines for writing a comment.

Question 4 Participant:

Did you identify any deficiencies with regard to the crime scene management, exhibit management, witness management or any other investigative processes undertaken? What would you have done different to improve or progress the investigation?

Answer Provided / Comment -

There are deficiencies with the exhibit continuity and management within this investigation. The records maintained are made it difficult to determine what has occurred with each exhibits such as where they were located and what examination has taken place.

Multiple horizontal lines for writing the answer.

Circle one of the following relative to the **content** of the answer –

Above average      Average      Below average

Circle one of the following relative to the **communication** of the answer –

Above average      Average      Below average

Comment -

Two horizontal lines for writing the comment.

Question 5 Participant:

If you recommend that the death be reinvestigated, what do you propose to tell the victim's family about why a re-investigation is necessary and the quality of the original investigation?

If you did not recommend reinvestigation specify what and how you are going to tell the next of kin that the case is not going to be reinvestigated?

Answer Provided / Comment -

As the case is to be re opened the Next of Kin is to be located and contacted. The NOK is to be informed the case has been re opened and the reasons why (to re examine exhibits as a part of developments in technology)

Multiple horizontal lines for writing the answer.

Circle one of the following relative to the **content** of the answer -

Above average      Average      Below average

Circle one of the following relative to the **communication** of the answer -

Above average      Average      Below average

Comment -

Multiple horizontal lines for writing the comment.