



## Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

### Statement of Bridget Lott

6 June 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. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

1. My name is Bridget Lott. This is my married name, and I was previously Bridget McCleery.
2. I am 47 years old. My address is known to the Inquiry.
3. I was Scott Miller's girlfriend at the time of his death. We met during high school in Orange and had been together on and off for about five years. We were still in a relationship at the time he died.
4. I last saw Scott on the Monday before his death. He moved from Orange to Sydney to go to university. He was meant to start at university the week after his death.
5. Scott wrote me a letter on the Friday before his death. I got it after he died. In the letter, Scott mentioned he was planning to go out with a group of people from Orange the next day (Saturday). It was his first weekend in the city. He wrote:
 

"Tomorrow Shawny and me are meeting up, getting some lunch and a swim and joining up with Whitey to go out. We might even have a look at the Mardi gras."
6. Scott was a country boy excited to be out in Sydney and explore "the Big Smoke". I think that's why Scott went to the Mardi Gras that night. I don't think Scott was gay or bisexual.
7. I remember being told that Scott was out with his friends Shawn Kelly, Jason Elvy and Nathan White on the night he died. I knew these boys – they all played football with Scott and like to go out and drink. I understand that after the Mardi Gras, Scott and his friends went to The Rocks. The Rocks was a fairly common place for country people to end a night out.
8. Scott was a big guy, and he could hold his own in a fight. Scott had been in physical fights in Orange. It wasn't frequent and it was usually if someone had wronged his friends. Scott didn't go around picking fights. He was a larrikin and a cheeky guy though, so I can imagine he might have gotten in trouble or rubbed someone up the wrong way.
9. I came to Sydney to visit Scott on the Sunday. I tried to call him, but he wasn't answering his phone. The next day, Monday, someone answered his phone and said that Scott had died. I wasn't told anything except where he was found.

10. I went to The Rocks Police Station either on Monday or Tuesday – I can't remember exactly which day. I remember crying and being very upset. The Police said Scott might have climbed a fence, wanting to go to the casino, and fell. They showed me or they told me where the fence was. That was the only conversation I had with the Police. They never tried to make contact with me.
11. I don't know why Scott would wander off on his own. I don't know where he would have gone – maybe to the next pub. He was new to the city so he didn't really know anyone. In Orange if he had been drinking he would likely have wandered off to walk home. In the city I can't imagine where he would have gone.
12. I don't know if Scott enjoyed gambling or the pokies. If he was trying to get to the casino, I think it would have been more because it was an exciting part of being in the city for him, and not necessarily about gambling.
13. I find it very hard to believe that Scott climbed the fence. Scott could have thought about heading to the casino, but I think it's unlikely he would have climbed the fence if he was very drunk.

Signature:



Name: Bridget Lott

Date: 6 June 2023