

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: Surry Hills Police Station

Death of James William MEEK,

Date: 12 March 1994

█/12/█ Belvoir Street.

Name: HUMPHREYS, Saeran

Tel No.: █

Address: Surry Hills Police Station

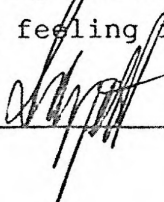

Occupation: Constable of Police

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 in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

2. My age is 23 years.

3. About 3.30pm on Wednesday 8th March 1995 Constable RICHMOND and myself attended Northcott Flats █ level 12 flat █ of Belvoir Street, Surry Hills. Upon arrival at the ground floor Constable RICHMOND and I were met by William James COFFEY, tenancy manager of the department of housing and in charge of management of the Northcott flats. He informed me that he was concerned for the occupant of block █ flat █ as his dogs were barking and no one could be raised from the premises. Mr COFFEY had with him a locksmith to unlock the front door of that unit. Once on level 12, Constable RICHMOND and I were introduced to Michael Francis LAWRENCE, a friend of the now deceased James William MEEK. LAWRENCE told police that he feared there was something wrong with James William MEEK as he did not attend a community meeting the day before and this was out of character. LAWRENCE stated that he had last seen MEEK on Sunday 5th March at about 10am when MEEK visited him as LAWRENCE was feeling ill. LAWRENCE stated that MEEK appeared well on

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this visit and was not complaining of feeling unhealthy. He informed police that MEEK was suffering from HIV and had been for the past ten or so years.

4. Constable RICHMOND, William COFFEY, Michael LAWRENCE, the locksmith and I then walked from the elevator on the 12th floor to the front door of James William MEEK's unit. Once there I saw that the front fly screen door was slightly ajar and the front interior wooded door was locked shut. There were newspaper pages in between the front locked door and the slightly ajar fly screen door on the ground. LAWRENCE informed me that MEEK would place the paper there so as to stop the wind coming from outside and through the crack under the door into the unit. I observed that the window to the left of the front door was locked and secure. There were no signs of forced entry into the premises and the front door was intact, locked and secure.

5. I knocked loudly on the door but could hear only the sound of two dogs barking. I then asked the locksmith to go ahead and unlock the front wooden door, which he did. I then pushed the door open and saw lying face down on the floor directly in front of the door in the hall entry way, a male person who I now know to be James William MEEK. Before entering the unit I observed two small dogs barking and running about the deceased. I also saw a broken ceramic bowl with dog food about it on the floor near the deceased outstretched arm. I saw dog excrement about the deceased on the floor. There was also a 2 litre coke bottle a few centimetres West of the deceased that had a liquid that was cloudy white in colour contained in it. The deceased had a key ring with two keys attached to it in his right hand. I walked into the unit and stood North East of the deceased where I could see that he had a small amount of blood about his nose

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which appeared to have dried. The deceased was lying on his stomach with his legs were outstretched. His right arm was outstretched in a North Easterly direction and his left arm was under his torso with the forearm stretched out. I saw that the deceased face was coloured a deep purple grey colour and appeared distended and slightly bloated. The deceased face was turned to face east. There was a small amount of dried blood about the nose area. The deceased right ear appeared slightly wet from where the two small dogs had licked him. About one foot North East of the deceased was a broken ceramic bowl with dry dog food about it. There was dog excrement also on the floor about the body. William James COFFEY identified the deceased as James William MEEK to me.

6. Constable RICHMOND then contacted the station via police radio to have the supervisor attend. I then obtained an identification statement from William James COFFEY. About 4.10pm Sergeant WALLIS and Detective McENCROE attended the unit and made observations. Crime scene was then contacted to attend the unit via police radio. A short time later Constable 1/Class WHYBRO of East Sydney Zone Crime Scene Unit attended in the company of Constable 1/C DEVANEY. After speaking with Constables WHYBRO and DEVANEY they entered the unit to begin their investigation.

7. I then spoke with a neighbour of James William MEEK, Mr Brian Patrick KANE from Belvoir Street with Constable RICHMOND. I then left Constable RICHMOND who continued to speak with KANE. I returned to MEEK's unit. Whilst the Crime Scene unit were investigating I made further observations. The deceased was turned over and I saw a graze on the deceased right lower leg with a small amount of blood about it. I could see no other apparent injuries. The deceased was wearing a grey T-

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shirt and blue shorts. When the deceased legs were moved I saw that they appeared to be fairly rigid.

8. I then made observations of the unit which was in an dishevelled state but did not appear to have been disturbed. The kitchen is to the east of the entry hall where the deceased was lying. There is a lounge room located north of the entry hall. In the South eastern corner of the unit is a separate bathroom and North of the bathroom is a separate bedroom. In the bathroom there was newspaper about the floor with animal excrement on it. The other rooms appeared to be cluttered with objects and blankets appearing generally untidy, however it did not appear to have been disturbed.

9. After Crime Scene Unit completed their examination, government contractors were called to attend the unit. At 5.55pm the government contractors attended and conveyed the deceased to St. Vincents Hospital where a Life Extinct Certificate was issued at 6.20pm. Crime Scene Unit left the premises. I then shut the front wooden door which locked automatically. Constable RICHMOND and I attended Glebe Morgue.

10. At Glebe Morgue I identified the body as that of the deceased James William MEEK to the Officer in Charge there. Paperwork was then completed and the deceased was booked into the morgue. Constable RICHMOND and I then returned to Surry Hills Police Station.

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 S. HUMPHREYS

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