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New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: Surry Hills Police Station 14th March, 1995 Date:

Tel No.:

Name: RUSCOE, Wayne Noel Iluka Street, Rose Bay 2029 Address: Occupation: Office Manager

States:-

This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence 1. 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.

My age is 44. 2.

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I know Jim MEEK's through a group called Ankali which is a 3. support group for people with HIV aids. My role with this group is to provide emotional support to the clients. I tend to be a confidant as a volunteer and a sounding board anything that the clients want to talk about. I started the project in 1988 and I gave it up for about 18 months. I returned last August, 1994 and Jim became my client in September, 1994. This group meets in Ankali House in Crown Street, Surry Hills and we are part of NSW Health Department.

I would meet with Jim usually on a weekly basis and it all 4. depended on Jim when he wanted to see me. There were no regular days but I usually went to his place on Thursday afternoons about 4.30pm to 5pm and if it wasn't convenient it would be whenever Jim could see me which is sometimes on weekends or during the week. I would go there quite often and I would get Jim talking about himself and opening up to me and we would be interrupted by the security guard who came around nearly every

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time. I don't remember what his name was, I think maybe Steve and I didn't know what their relationship was but I did wonder. Jim told me that this guy made him some clothing for the Gay Mardi Gras and was charging him a reasonable price.

5. The last time I spoke to Jim was over the phone on either on Friday the 3rd or Saturday the 4th March, 1995. I rang Jim and I wanted to wish him a happy Mardi Gras and he sounded in good spirits and he sounded disappointed because he had organised an outfit to wear but he didn't lose his pot belly. We talked for about ten to fifteen minutes and it was mainly about the Mardi Gras and the fact that he was going to be working as a volunteer.

6. On Wednesday 8th March, 1995, about 10 o'clock that morning I received a contact from Ankali saying that neighbours were worried about Jim because the dogs were in the unit barking and there was no answer at the door and his car was still in the carpark. I was asked if I had any knowledge of his movements. I immediately started ringing Jim's home phone number and it kept ringing out. I kept ringing throughout the day and it rang out. Jim would always tell me that if he didn't answer the phone he would be walking the dogs and that doesn't take long. As the day wore on I became more and more worried because he would never have left the dogs in the house alone for such a long period.

7. About quarter past four that afternoon I rang Jim's place again and it was answered by someone who was waiting for Jim and I assume now that it was the police. I then went to Jim's place at unit Northcott Belvoir Street, Surry Hills and I arrived about 4.30pm that day and I spoke to a police woman who was out the front door of Jim's place. I told her who I was and she informed me that Jim had died. I then left and went to

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Ankali House and spoke to one of the counsellor's there.

When I had meetings with Jim he would talk about the beats 8. he frequented and the boys he picked up and he took back to the unit. I assumed that he took all of them back and I told him that it was dangerous but he reckoned he could handle himself. I know one of the beats that he went to was Ward Park next to Northcott because he would always take his dogs there and he would meet people because people would come up and pat the dogs. The other beat was in Centennial Park but I don't know where. Jim talked about a couple of regulars that would come to the unit, one of them was a man by the name of Jason and Jim said he was in his early twenties with fair hair and worked for the Sydney City Council or South Sydney Council, I don't know which collects the garbage around the area. Jim told me that Jason would arrive at his place between 2am and 3am in the morning and sexual activity would take place. Jim gave me the impression that it was on a regular basis maybe more that once a week and it appeared Jim had been seeing Jason well before I met him. I remembered Jim saying that Jason had a nice build.

There was another fellow who Jim was seeing and he lived in 9. the flats next to Northcott in Clisdell Street but it isn't the one where the shootings took place it's the units next to them heading north in Clisdell Street, Surry Hills. The reason I know where this guy lived is because I took Jim to a party on the 26th February, 1995 at Ankali House. As I was driving him home Jim was telling me about this guy and he was telling me about his visiting Jim's place once or twice before. As we were driving up Clisdell Street to Jim's place, Jim said, "The guy lives on that block there". Then all of a sudden Jim said, "There he is, he's coming out the door. Just drop me here." Jim got out of the car and I saw him walk up behind my car and lost view of him. There were two people that were walking out

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together but Jim pointed out the guy as Australian, early twenties, black straight short hair, about 5'10 to 5'11 tall, not slight but not fat but average for his height, fair skin but not pale and I can't remember what he was wearing because I didn't take a hell of a lot of notice. I spoke to Jim a couple of days later and I asked him how he went with this guy and Jim said Ok and that was it.

I met another fellow once at Jim's place and he was there 10. when I arrived. This was about October or November last year. I was introduced but I can't remember his name, I remember the name Michael but I don't know if I'm getting this name confused with Michael LAWRENCE who is a neighbour of Jim's. This fellow was from out west near Parramatta and I would describe him as Australian with middle eastern background, 5'10 to 5'11 tall, stocky build, nuggetty build like a footballer's build, light olive complexion, black straight short hair, dark eyes, clean shaven and he was wearing a check shirt, tight blue jeans and brown ankle boots like horse riding boots. One of the things this guy talked about was that he had a girlfriend and whom he enjoyed sexual relations. I had a strong feeling that when I walked in I had interrupted them because they were both sitting on the couch. When I knocked on the door, the screen door was shut and the inside door was open and I remember Jim standing up in front of this guy and it looked like he was adjusting his clothing. I remember thinking I had interrupted them.

He did talk about other regulars that he had sexual 11. relations with and they would always go to his unit. He told me some were married men but he didn't name them to me. There was another young guy called Jamie that Jim asked me to keep an eye He asked me because he lived at Rose Bay and because I on. lived in that area I gave him a call. Jamie's phone number is

and I spoke to Jamie last night 13th March, 1995 and I Delardy

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spoke to him about funeral arrangements and I told him that I was going to speak to the Police. Jamie told me that I could give you his number and that he wanted to help. We talked about Jim bringing home people to his unit for sex and it was likely that he was assaulted in his unit by someone that he had picked up. I don't know what the relationship was between Jamie and Jim but I get the impression that they were just friends.

12. I remember Jim mentioning that he had an accident about two weeks maybe three weeks ago where a truck back into his car. There was damage to his car door and it was off the road for two or three days. I assumed that all the repairs were made but I don't know if he had any problems with the accident. Jim told me about the payout he received last year with which he bought the car and a video player.

13. I also remember Jim talking about having false teeth and that when he had gave oral sex to somebody he would take out his teeth but he didn't say why but I assumed that his partners liked it or he preferred it. The only other thing that he talked about was that Jason liked oral sex and that Jason would like to lie on the couch face down and Jim would massage him and rub his penis between his buttocks but I don't think they had penetration.

14. When I went to Jim's place I would park out the back and you could look to Jim's back window and sometimes he would have the curtains opened and tied in the middle and sometimes he would have them closed. When I had meetings at his place it they were open because when I was talking to him I could look out at the view. Jim was unit usually neat and clean, I didn't feel that it was a dirty place to be in. I know Jim had a selection of pornographic video tapes and I remember twice he played one of the tapes and I said no, thats not what I'm here

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for and Jim would turn it off. I remember Jim telling the tape was called Rogues. When I was at Jim's place his security door was closed but unlocked and the inside door was open because I remember when we went for a walk he would lock that security door but not the inside one. He was very security conscious.

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Jim was involved with the Luncheon club and I don't know 15. much about it except its for people with HIV and it was open virtually every day. I don't know how many times he went there but he was a regular so he could meet people and I think thats where he met Jamie. He was a member of the Residents Committee at Northcott. I can't think of what else he was involved in but he used to do his shopping at the Surry Hills Shopping which used to be Redfern Mall in Cleveland Street, Surry Hills.

16. If Jim had been assaulted away from his unit he wouldn't have come home and not told anyone, he would have rung me or told someone else. He wouldn't keep it to himself and even if he had been assaulted at his unit he would have told someone or rung someone. If Jim went anywhere he would always take his car. Jim wasn't a drinker because when we went to parties he would only have one or two cans of V.B beer.

Jim always wore a silver watch but I can't describe the 17. watch it was nothing flash. He also wore a gold chunky gold mens ring on his ring finger but I can't remember which hand. It was an unusual ring because it was either round or square with a semi precious stone. Jim also always wore his glasses because he couldn't see without them.

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