

P.190.

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: Liverpool Detectives  
Office.

Date: 4 April, 1995

Name: NIGHTINGALE, Mary Elizabeth

Tel No.: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: [REDACTED]

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 64

3. I reside at the above address with my son and grandson. I have lived at this address for the past three years. Prior to that, I lived a Unit in Nagle Street, Liverpool. I am presently in receipt of the Commonwealth Government Aged Pension.

4. I am related to the Meek family. James Meeks' mother was my sister. My sister passed away about eight months ago. Over the years, I enjoyed a very close relationship with Jim Meek.

5. The last time I spoke with Jim was on the evening of the Gay Mardi Gras, the 4 March, 1995 about 7.00pm. I rang Jim at home and Jim told me that he was leaving home to go to the Mardi Gras. Jim told me that he would be selling buttons on one of the stands. Our conversation was brief as Jim told me he was in a hurry because he had to meet some-one. Jim never specified who that person was. Jim didn't state whether or not he was



Mary E. Nightingale

STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of:

Name: NIGHTINGALE, Mary Elizabeth

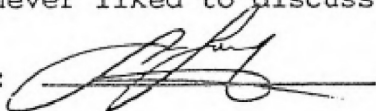
entertaining any persons at the time of the conversation, and I didn't detect any unusual background noises. Jim told me that he would ring me on the following Thursday, 9 March, 1995 to let me know whether or not he would be coming to my house to visit.

6. Jim would visit my at my house on a monthly basis. Jim and I would converse by phone on a daily basis. Jim and I enjoyed a close relationship. I am aware that Jim had a hard upbringing and I am also aware of Jim's sexual habits and his demeanour. Jim was H.I.V. positive. I have been aware that Jim had been sick with the disease for at least four years. No-one else in the family seemed to show much respect or remorse for Jim. I felt sorry for him because of this and always attempted to include Jim in my life. I made it a rule that Jim and I virtually never discussed his sexuality, I always attempted to steer conversation away from that topic.

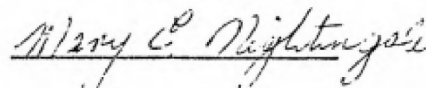
7. Jim and I would often socialise together. If Jim came to my house to visit, we might have lunch in the local mall or visit Jim's father together. Jim's father lives in a Nursing Home in Liverpool. He suffers from demeanture.

8. I recently have undergone surgery where my hip's were surgically replaced. I did never visit Jim at the Northcott Apartment's in Surry Hills, but did visit Jim when he lived in Kings Cross. At the time, Jim was involved in a relationship with a male person, I recall his name being Ron or something similar. This person that Jim was involved with was the Head Master at Glebe Primary School from memory. I am led to believe that Jim may have married this person. This was at least three years ago. This relationship turned sour but I am not really converse with all the details. As I have already stated, I never liked to discuss Jim's private affairs. I recall the

Witness:



Signature:



STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of:

Name: NIGHTINGALE, Mary Elizabeth

relationship ended about the time that Jim moved to Surry Hills. I did see this person at Jim's funeral.

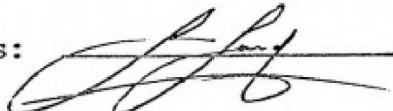
9. Jim was the type of person that I believed led a double life. Jim was one of the most kind and caring persons any person could meet, but as I have eluded to, Jim was a homosexual. I attribute this to his upbringing. It was not uncommon for Jim to dress in female clothes at a young age.

10. Prior to his death, Jim never discussed with me being involved with any steady partner. Jim mentioned the name Bob to me, but I am unsure of what the status of their relationship was. I spoke to this Bob over the phone a couple of times when I had contact with Jim, Bob would be there and Bob was at the funeral. Bob came to me at the funeral and introduced himself. This was the only time I have ever seen this person Bob. I don't know his second name or anything else about him.

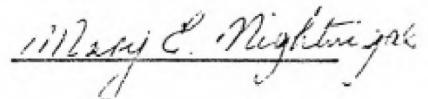
11. I am aware that Jim used to exercise his dogs in the park near his unit. Jim told me this in conversations. I recall another time that Jim told me that he was walking the dogs in the park when he was attacked by person called Gary. I am led to believe that Gary was a young person, only about nineteen and this was eighteen months ago. The name Gary is the name of the person I am led to believe attacked Jim, but I am not sure of this fact. Jim did later tell me that he lost the matter at Court and that the person Bob was with him when he went to Court.

12. Jim for the last four years had been in receipt of sickness benefits. Prior to that, Jim worked as a truck driver and as a Security Guard. Jim recently received a pay out from a compensation claim to the value of twenty thousand dollars. He immediately purchased a new Daewoo car. Jim told me that he

Witness:



Signature:



STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of:

Name: NIGHTINGALE, Mary Elizabeth

used to play the poker machines. Jim was a social drinker of beer but not a big drinker. I don't ever recall seeing Jim drunk in the time he was alive. Jim in recent conversation, I don't remember the exact date told me that he had lost a considerable amount of money on the poker machines. This is after he received his conversation pay out and after purchasing the car. I can't really assist in specifying any particular club that Jim would visit on a regular basis or the frequency of these visits.

13. Jim appeared to lead a life of a hermit having little contact outside the homosexual community. As I stated previously I did not make it my business to be converse with Jim's personal life in so far as his sexual exploits. I felt very sympathetic for Jim. To the majority of his family he was an outcast. The family was aware of his sexuality and that he was a HIV sufferer and even when he past away he was snubbed and ridiculed by the majority of the family. They considered him sick and sleazy.

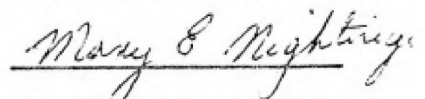
14. I can recount a conversation that I had with Jim sometime ago about a person Jim referred to as Jackie. Jackie I'm lead to believe is [REDACTED] who lived in the same block of flats as Jim. Apparently sometime ago, possibly in excess of twelve months there had been a violent altercation between the two over an outstanding debt. Jim did not specify the details of this altercation. It was over the non payment of outstanding monies. I am not in a position to advise how this matter was resolved. Jackie was at the funeral. I did not converse with Jackie, this person was indicated to me by an elderly resident, Cooky who lives in the flats.

15. Jim and I had a close relationship. It would be fair to say that I was Jim's confidant. Apart from matters of sexuality

Witness:



Signature:



STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of:

Name: NIGHTINGALE, Mary Elizabeth

that Jim and I agreed not to discuss in our conversations, it would be fair to say that Jim would tell me almost every detail of his day to day life. In the weeks proceeding Jim's death, he did not discuss or canvass with me any perceived threats or anxieties that he may be suffering from relating to his personal safety or demeanour.

16. It would be fair to say that Jim was not a fighter. Jim was not a strong person physically and I have never known Jim to involved in a physical altercation all his life. Jim expressed a desire to move in with me. I had to recount his expressions because of my family situation. I reside in a Housing Commission complex with members of my family and as much as I would have loved Jim living with me, I believe that if Jim had lived with me it would have led to problems. Jim expressed his desire to co habituate with me after the separation with a person called Ron. I do not believe Jim ever recovering from this separation and Jim was scared internally from this incident.

17. On occasions when I would have physical contact with Jim, I would always be aware that Jim was wearing a big ring on one of his fingers and his fathers watch. This watch was his fathers watch which he received when he retired from the railways. I am aware that it had been engraved on the rear, I do not know what this engraving specified. The ring I would describe as being a gold banded ring with a tiger eye stone. The watch I would describe as being a gold banded watch but I cannot be more specific about that.

Witness:



Signature:

