

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: Surry Hills Police Station

Death of James William MEEK

Date: 18 March 1995

Name: KING, Carole Ann

Tel No.:

Address: Edmund Street Waverley

Occupation: Club Co-ordinator

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 48.

3. I have been residing at Waverley for the past four years. I was living in Melbourne before that. I have been Co-ordinating a voluntary Organisation called People Living with and affected by HIV/AIDS Luncheon Club. A luncheon is held at the Exchange Hotel, Lizard Lounge every Monday except public holidays and special occasions. The volunteers arrive from 9.30am and the doors are opened at midday. Lunch is served at 12.30pm and entertainment starts at approximately 1pm. We could average about 150 people attending the luncheon.

4. Approximately 12 months ago Jim MEEK attended one of our luncheons and he introduced himself to me. He said he was a friend of a friend of mine and this friend recommended him to go to the luncheon. He said that he would not be able to attend every Monday as he had other commitments and would attend as often as he could. He was a very friendly person and had a wonderful attitude living with the HIV virus. From then on Jim would attend the luncheons once a month and on a more regular basis from August and September 1994.

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5. For the past 10 months I have written a column for Capital Q gay newspaper for the luncheon club which tells people what the luncheon is all about, it also has coming up events and I ask for volunteers. Volunteers were told to turn up at 9.30am at the Lizard Bar. Jim became a volunteer for the luncheon club in September 1994, which was the reason he attended more frequently. Jim knew a lot of people through the luncheon club, he was very friendly, helpful and he never had any arguments with anybody.

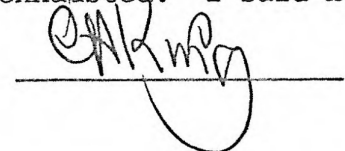
6. I would have had a lot of contact with Jim from September last year because of his involvement with the luncheon club, Fair Day which was held at Jubilee Park at Glebe in February and the Gay Mardi Gras in Sydney on the 4 March 1995. Two weeks before the Gay Mardi Gras Jim was constantly at my home preparing for the Mardi Gras, he was helping with the decorations for the float and fixing the car which belongs to the luncheon club. The last week before the Mardi Gras Jim asked me if a friend of his Tim DOWLING could join the float and work at the stall at the Mardi Gras party at the showground. I said yes and Jim was very appreciative.

7. On the night of the Mardi Gras I was very busy organising a very large float, volunteers and the stall at the Mardi Gras party which was situated outside Hall industries inside the showground. At the stall we sold toothbrushes and gave away coffee. I saw Jim at the stall at 1.30am Sunday 5 March 1995, I thanked him for being at the stall and asked him how the night had gone. He was in good spirits and joking and he said that everything was fine except for the rain. Jim was on his own at the time. I asked him if Tim DOWLING was here and Jim said yes and he was grateful that I organised a ticket for him and Tim. I then went to the VIP area and returned to the stall at 3am. Jim asked me if he could go home as he was exhausted. I said he

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could go as I had enough volunteers to help out but Jim did not leave until 4am. Jim was wearing a Bobby Goldsmith T shirt and he was wearing his glasses. I later noticed he was wearing a black T shirt with the Luncheon Club written on the back.

8. At 6pm on Sunday 5 March 1995 Jim called me at home to say hello and to see how I felt. He also wanted to remind me about the show 60 Minutes which was on at 7.30pm on channel 9. He told me he was exhausted and that he was going to watch the 8.30pm program on channel 2 concerning the Gay Mardi Gras. He then made arrangements to see me the next day the 6 March about lunch time to help me clean up. Jim arrived between 12.30pm and 1pm, he helped clean up the car. He left about 3pm and said he would come tomorrow, Tuesday 7 March to remove the 'lips' off the car and rewire the car properly. At 8.30pm on Monday I rang Jim and I asked him if he would be interested in being a committee member for the luncheon club. Jim was very keen to be involved and he told me that he had a meeting with the housing commission committee in which he was very involved with.

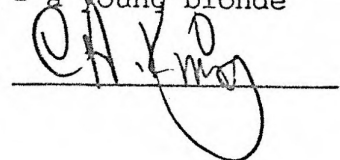
9. Jim did not turn up the next day, which I thought was very unusual because he was always on time, reliable and responsible. At 2.30pm I tried to contact Jim but without success, I kept on trying all afternoon up until 9.30pm that night. There was a period between 6pm and 9.30pm I did not bother ringing as I knew he had a housing Commission committee meeting. My last call was at 9.30pm but there was no answer.

10. On Wednesday 8 March at 9.30am I again tried to contact Jim by phone but there was no answer. I then rang Bob the security guard and he said he had been ringing him and knocking on his door without prevail and he was also worried about him as he had not seen him since 11.30pm on Monday night. He had not stayed long because he had a friend there with him - a young blonde

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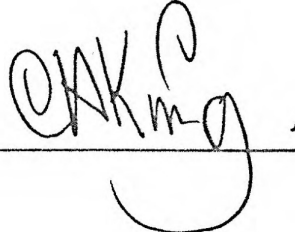
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guy. He said he was going to put tape on the door to see if he was going in and out of the unit. He said he would let me know if he saw or heard anything.

11. At 5pm Bob the security guard phoned me and told me they had called the locksmith in and the locksmith could not get in until the police were present. He then told me that Jim was found inside in a pool of blood. I then asked him what happened, Bob said he could have hit his head and fallen or although the police are treating it as suspicious circumstances. I spoke to Bob late afternoon the next day, he said the last time he had saw Jin was 10.35pm on Monday. Later that week Bob told me on the phone that it was a young guy who was 19 to 20 old that was with Jim on the Monday night. I then asked him was it the blonde guy. Bob said no not blonde but fair hair.

12. Since knowing Jim I have never seen him with any men or boys. I knew Jim was gay and that he liked younger men but he never told me how he picked them up although he did mention doing the beat at Centennial Park. I would describe Jim as 5 feet 6 inches , early 50's, straight grey hair, stocky, beer belly and he wore glasses.

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