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WEEKLY BRIEFS

Support for hate crime survivors

A gay man who was seriously assaulted in an anti-gay attack last December has established Gay and Lesbian Assault Survivors, a support group for gay and lesbian assault victims. Initiated by survivor Jim Roberts, the group will meet on the second and fourth Monday of every month in the new Pride Centre. Roberts first approached Police Gay and Lesbian Client Liaison Officer, Sue Thompson, about the need for such a support group after his assault, on the streets of Surry Hills. Thompson told *Capital Q* she has long been aware of the lack of ongoing support for victims of homophobic hate crimes. The group is jointly supported by the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project, the Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison, the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service and Pride.

No concrete leads in Meek murder

Police investigating the murder of 51-year-old James William Meek, who was found dead in his Surry Hills home on 8 March are continuing to interview friends and associates in an attempt to reconstruct his last movements. Although they have no strong suspects at this stage, police are interested in speaking to a man seen with Meek two nights before he was murdered. "We're pretty sure he knew the person involved, or at least invited him into his home," Detective Sergeant Tony Tanos said. While the exact cause of his death is yet to be established, Meek suffered a number of blows around the head with a blunt instrument, that may have led to a brain haemorrhage. Tanos said Meek's watch and ring were missing from the scene. "We never really accept robbery as a possible motive - it could have been a motive created by the murderer," he said.

► **from page one** Hills Police, told the *Star Observer* police were keeping their options open on whether they were investigating a gay hate killing: "probably more so than not at this stage," he said. They also say it is possible he was the victim of a random assault and robbery. "He was apparently very active sexually," Tanos said, "so perhaps it was someone he knew." King described Meek, a volunteer for the People Living with and Affected by HIV and AIDS Luncheon Club, as "a beautiful man". She was devastated by the news of his murder. "He had such a wonderful attitude to [his HIV infection]: don't give up," she said. "He was one of those elders of the community, so dearly loved by the young ones." "He was a treasure — and now, the world has one less good person."

