

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of: Place: Adelaide Police Station, Adelaide  
Murder of Kenneth BRENNAN Date: 3 August, 1995

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Name: SALER, Ronda Helen

Tel No.: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED], Blackforest

Occupation: Mother

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 49.

3. I am the eldest daughter of Josephine Doris BRENNAN and William John BRENNAN (deceased). Kenneth BRENNAN is the eldest child, then myself, then Marion Patricia BILLINGS nee BRENNAN, Joanne Elizabeth CARTER nee BRENNAN, and Robert John BRENNAN. Ken is 4 years older than me.

4. As a family we grew up at [REDACTED] Royal Park, a suburb of Adelaide. We had a normal middle class family, Dad was a plumber and had his own business. Ken was a typical older brother, he would help me with school problems, if I fell off my bike he would be there to pick me up. Ken went to Woodville Boys High School, from there he went to teachers college. All he ever wanted to do was become a teacher.

5. He graduated as a teacher and taught in the South East of Adelaide. He moved up through the education department because I believe he was a very good teacher. I think he met Rosemary at Teachers Colldege, they got married at Semifore in Adelaide, he spent about 2 years teaching at Katherine in the Northern Territory with Rosemary. They lived in a place on [REDACTED], which they bought together. They were together about 12 or 13 years and then separated. I have no idea why they separated. They had no children.

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6. From when Ken was about 14 years old, he seemed very caring towards people, he was very considerate towards people, he did not seem to ogle over pictures of women. I knew from an early age that he was different from other boys. Everybody looked up to Ken, all the kids respected him.

7. Rosemary and Ken sold the house at [REDACTED] and later bought a unit at [REDACTED], Adelaide. Ken was teaching in Adelaide and worked at different schools within Adelaide. I would often visit Ken at his unit, he would call around and see me, we always kept in touch. I was aware that Ken had a lot of gay male friends and when I visited him at his unit he would introduce me to his friends. His best friend is Ron DROHAN who was his friend since Woodville High School. Also Graeme DUCKETT who I think he met through teaching. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

8. Towards the end of 1993, Ken took a redundancy package from the Education Department. He stopped teaching and did nothing for about three months. I think NP215 lived with Ken for about 12 months prior to him taking the redundancy package. NP215 was working for an electrical place putting computers together, at Elizabeth. NP215 moved in with Ken, then he hurt his elbow, he had RSI, it was operated on, which was unsuccessful. He then took a retirement package and stopped work.

9. About September, 1992, Ken and NP215 left for Sydney. Ken got a job as a correspondence teacher in an Open Learning School as a Ancient History teacher. I think he and NP215 were living with friends in Sydney and then they got a unit at [REDACTED] Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay. I believe they were lovers, they had typical arguments. I have never been to the apartment in Sydney. I think one of the reasons why he went to Sydney was to start afresh and to remain anonymous so he could do his own thing.

10. The last time Ken and NP215 came to Adelaide they drove over to Adelaide from Melbourne with a friend John. They stayed at Kens unit in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Adelaide and stayed for about 5 days. This was about March, 1995. One

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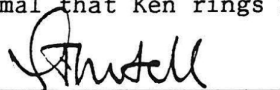
morning [NP215] came to my home one day distressed and crying. It was about 1.30-2.00am. [NP215] said something like, "Ken's gone off, I don't know where he is and he's been gone a while", [NP215] was very concerned and worried. [NP215] also told me that he felt Ken was having <sup>R.H.S.</sup> sex with other men. [NP215] told me that Ken was putting himself in danger by contracting a disease or by getting bashed. [NP215] was there for about one hour, I managed to calm him down and told him that he had to go home. They were going to the Oakbank Racing Carnival the next day. [NP215] seemed to be hoping that Ken would stop this activity. [NP215] loved Ken very much and thought the world of him.

11. They had a fairly good relationship [NP215] did all the housework and made sure that things were kept clean. Ken is a very untidy. They seemed to do there own share of things. I think financially they both put in there fair share for bills and rent.

12. I would keep in constant contact with Ken. Nobody was living in the Adelaide unit whilst they were living in Sydney and I would collect the mail and then post it to Sydney. I would often write a little letter to let him know what was happening with the family and this would accompany the letters from the unit. Ken would ring me at home and I would ring him, we would speak on average about once fortnight. Ken had indicated to me over the last couple of years that he would meet other people and they would go out. He indicated that [NP215] was not happy with the arrangement but he had accepted it and the living arrangements would remain the same as they had been. There was no indication that one was moving out.

13. On Sunday 11 June, 1995, I received a telephone call on my mobile from Ken. My home telephone diverts to my mobile telephone. It was between 5.15pm and 5.30pm, South Australian time, it was just starting to get dark and I was at my friends home, Peta, who lives in the western area of Adelaide. It was a very short conversation with Ken, discussing the mail which had been sent up, and he was enquiring about my family. Ken seemed quite happy and normal. There was no background noise and he did not indicate where he was calling from. It is quite normal that Ken rings me to thank me for sending the mail up to him. There was

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no mention of **NP215** throughout the conversation.

14. About 10.30am on Tuesday, 13 June, 1995, I was at the Adelaide Childrens Hospital when I received a telephone call on my mobile from my sister Marion. Marion told me about the death of Ken.

15. Later that same day I telephoned Kings Cross Police Station and had a conversation with **NP215**. I also spoke to **NP215** on the telephone on several occasions prior to Kens funeral.

16. I again spoke to **NP215** at length when he came to Adelaide for the funeral. **NP215** told me that he came home from Wollaraha, coming down the road he noticed that the blinds were not drawn, that he noticed a light on inside, he came into the unit and noticed that it was very dull and he saw markings on the wall, which he thought were dirt, he later found out that it was blood. He is a very fastidious person and notices that if anything is out of place he notices it. He told me that he went over the turn the light up and he noticed that the bedroom was in disarray. He turned around and went back into the loungeroom and then he noticed Ken laying on the floor and he knew straight away that he was dead, by the look on his face and the blood coming out of his mouth. Apparently his eyes were staring. Then he ran down to the Police Station. He told me afterwards that he found out there were some underpants found on the bed, there was more blood than he noticed, that he was killed with a kitchen knife, he possibly died with the third stab and that he was beaten with a fry pan as well.

17. I can think of no person that would ever harm Ken. I can not think of one person that would hold a grudge against him. Everybody who met him liked him, he was they type of person.

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_



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Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

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