

NEW SOUTH WALES POLICE

STATEMENT in the matter of:


Murder of Kenneth Brennan

Place: Adelaide, South Australia.

Date: 3 August, 1995.

Name: Graham Frank DUCKETT.
 Address: [REDACTED] Lower Mitcham, 5062.
 Tel No. [REDACTED].

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in a 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 anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 56 years. (DOB [REDACTED] 39)
3. I am currently working as an actor, stage door manager, barman, waiter and usher, in Adelaide. I work through an actors agency in Adelaide known as ACTORS INK. I direct plays, I write, I am working at the moment for the Junction Theatre company as a professional actor. I do commercials and films and stage shows. I work as a barman and waiter at the TASTE OF PROVINCE. I'm generally a jack of all trades in the entertainment area. As a performer and organiser.
4. I also do volunteer work at the Daw Park Hospice for terminally ill people. I work there about 5 hours a week. I am currently residing at the above address, which I rent from a friend and have lived there for the past 15 years. The garden bed sitter is at the rear of a friends house. I have lived alone since my divorce 30 years ago.
5. I cant remember my first meeting exactly but I first met Ken when he was married to Rosemary about 20 years ago. I have known him socially through mutual friends and have gotten to know him better over the past eight years. I have never been involved with Ken in a relationship but we had become close friends over the past eight years.
6. When Ken was here in Adelaide we would meet for lunch. we had a lot of good friends in common and shared the same interests. I met NP215 through Ken when NP215 was living at Salisbury I was aware that they were living in a homosexual relationship. Ken was still living in his unit in [REDACTED] and NP215 was living in Salisbury. NP215 had a unit in the backyard of the family home. He used to come to Adelaide and stay for a weekend with Ken in the unit. I would

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see them occasionally, It was not a regular thing just when there was a party on or an occasion.

7. Ken was involved in an organisation called Country Network and I would often met people involved in the network. I was not involved in the country network, I don't get into that sort of stuff.
8. I saw Ken and [NP215] relationship as a bit of an odd match, but it did not bother me, I found [NP215] very embarrassing socially at times. He would make a scene by slapping Ken and yelling out. I would often think for Christs sake shut up. He thought everyone was centred on him. I can't believe Ken could put up with this behaviour, it was so unlike Ken's. When they moved to Sydney, I feel it was a business move. I believe he got a package from the Education Department. There were more job opportunities for him, it was a bigger place and he thought maybe [NP215] could get a job there. It appeared to me that he was making the move for his own benefit and to look after [NP215]
9. I found [NP215] neurotic, he would have tremendous highs and lows, massive mood swings, he would have moments of heavy binge drinking. I think he drank Southern Comfort. He would cause scenes in front of friends. Over the last couple of years when I would see them I thought [NP215] was on some type of medication and things just weren't working out for them. He would slam doors and carry on like a child. His behaviour was often petulant and neurotic in my opinion.
10. Ken would put up with this, but I think he felt responsible for [NP215] and he tried to get [NP215] to cope with things. Sometimes Ken had to get him in a good mood before we could go anywhere.
11. When Ken and [NP215] used to visit from Sydney we used to go out in a group with [NP215] Ken and John Sullivan a friend of ours and quite often there was tension between the two. This was over the last couple of years and it got worse.
12. I could not understand how Ken could put up with this but if Ken was happy I was happy [NP215] used to make scenes and cause problems on occasions.
13. I believe that the relationship had become more volatile over the last six months in particular, I was under the impression from Ken that [NP215] was moving his stuff out of the Adelaide unit at Easter. Then they visited us at Easter and nothing had changed, they were still bickering. I believe that they had at least one physical fight over the last few months.
14. When [NP215] and Ken had visited Adelaide at Christmas Ken gave me the impression that a move was definite. I even offered to go with Ken to the unit,

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in case there was nastiness. I believed that NP215 could have been violent or thrown a tantrum.

15. When they arrived here at Easter I thought Ken had actually said to me that Easter was when NP215 things were to be removed from the flat. This however did not happen, I was surprised it didn't happen and was not discussed.
16. Over the past six months, I have a record of when I have rung Ken, I have listed five times from the 29.1.95 to the 14.5.1995 which was the last time I spoke to Ken, I think. Easter weekend was the last time that I had actually seen him alive. We would talk for about five to ten minutes usually. He would talk to me about how things were if NP215 was not listening or in the room, and we would discuss the relationship. I gathered that Ken was seeing other people with a view to getting NP215 interested in other people. That was the impression that I got from Ken.
17. Ken was writing friendly social type letters in which he would discuss his relationship and what was happening to him, to a patient at the Daw Park Hospice where I work as a volunteer. This patient had been a previous partner of Kens, he had photos of Ken and was still friendly. Ken visited this patient at the Hospice at Easter time, his name was Robert [REDACTED]. Robert died on the [REDACTED] 1995. Two days after Ken died. Robert used to give me Kens letters to read, and used to say " why doesn't he get rid of NP215, he was not happy. Why does he put up with all of this shit!" All the letters discussed the emotional turmoil in their relationship and how Ken was not happy and that the relationship was not good. Robert was also amazed, as I was, that Ken had got NP215 a job at the same school in the same section in Sydney. He did not really understand why Ken persevered in the relationship.
18. Ken used to talk to our friend John Sullivan in Melbourne who was also a teacher. They had a lot in common and I know that he was also aware of all the problems both in the relationship and at work.
19. In my opinion Ken was likeable and sociable, I was not fully aware of his sexual predilections, I knew he was gay, I was not aware of specifics. He confided in me as a friend and he was concerned about me as a friend about my health and my mother's illness. We always found time to have a meal when ever he was in town, and he never came to Adelaide without visiting me, calling me, or going out somewhere together. When I heard he had been murdered I was appalled and amazed at the violence involved, because in my opinion he was not the type of person to inspire that sort of treatment He was an arbitrator and a conciliator. He knew how to handle emotive situations and was not a physically violent person in my opinion.

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20. I am glad that I had the opportunity to talk to the police to help give a picture of what people have generally thought of Ken.

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