

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:
Murder of Kenneth BRENNAN

Place: Homicide Unit, Melbourne,
Victoria

Date: 4 October, 1995

Name: SULLIVAN, John Lyle

Tel No.: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] GLENROY

Occupation: School teacher

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 first met Kenneth BRENNAN around 1988 through a friend, [1277]. I met him at his North Adelaide unit in South Australia. At this stage Ken was working at Ferryden Park Primary School as the Principal. I was living at my present address and had gone over to Adelaide to attend the Oakbank Races. [1277] had previously met Ken at a sauna in Adelaide during this visit. From this point on I had regular contact with Ken. I would visit him several times during the year, write letters to him, and receive his letters and speak regularly on the telephone.
4. I was aware not long after first meeting Ken that he started a relationship with [NP215] who was also from Adelaide. At first it seemed a casual relationship and then when [NP215] took a voluntary retrenchment and his mother sold her home he moved into Kens unit.

Witness: [Signature]

Signature: John L Sullivan

STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Murder of Kenneth BRENNAN

Name: SULLIVAN, John Lyle

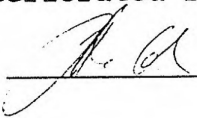
5. I continued to visit Ken in Adelaide and he would sometimes visit me in Melbourne. I would see Ken about four or five times a year. Ken and I developed a close relationship and confided in each other about personal problems, work problems and general issues.

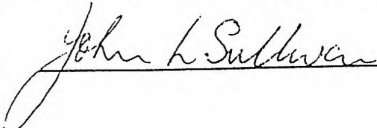
6. I was aware that during this time Ken and NP215 were having problems. When I was in their company NP215 would play childish and manipulative games with Ken. NP215 would make the biggest fuss about the smallest of things. It seemed that NP215 wanted to be very dependant on Ken and in the meantime was making Ken's life a misery. I don't know how he put up with NP215 behaviour.

7. Early 1994, Ken took a redundancy package, retiring from work. I think a school term went by without him working. He then moved to Sydney taking up a position with a Distance Education School as a teacher. NP215 went with Ken to Sydney and they initially lived with 1282 and later in a unit in Elizabeth Bay. They were living for a short time in another unit prior to the Elizabeth Bay unit. NP215 later started working at the same place as Ken as a Mail Person.

8. Once Ken moved to Sydney his letter writing became more frequent. I feel that Ken found it easier to write his feelings down on paper than to try to have a conversation on the telephone with NP215 around.

9. At Easter this year, I travelled to Melbourne airport and met with Ken and NP215. Arrangements had been made prior to their arrival that they were staying at my place on the Thursday night and then the three of us were driving to Adelaide on the Friday. (Good Friday). I could sense that the relationship had deteriorated further since the last time I had seen them. NP215

Witness: 

Signature: 

STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Murder of Kenneth BRENNAN

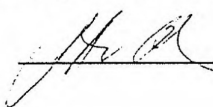
Name: SULLIVAN, John Lyle

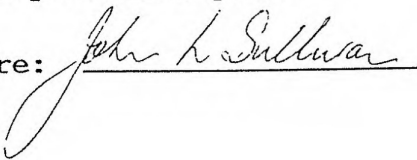
by this stage was supposed to make arrangements to store his furniture out of Ken's apartment. This was never done, so then the plans changed to making the arrangements during the September/October school holidays and moving them out on the Christmas school holidays. Ken was upset by the fact that [NP215] had not attempted to make arrangements to move his furniture.

10. On this weekend [NP215] was behaving in his usual childish matter. Every now and then Ken would put his foot down about his behaviour, but there was never a real screaming match. [NP215] occasionally would scream and shout, but Ken was always very calm.

11. On the Friday night we just stayed at home and had a quiet night, on the Saturday, Graeme, Ken and I went to the races, [NP215] would not go. Saturday night we just had dinner at the flat. On Sunday we had a quiet day and on Sunday night Ken went out on his own, he had a dinner to go to for work. [NP215] was not invited and that caused friction between them. I remained at the unit with [NP215], Ken came home from the dinner about 11.30pm, Ken and he had an argument over [NP215] not being invited to the dinner. Ken was pretty upset, he then left the apartment and I think he went to the sauna he got back about 3.00am that morning. On the Monday (easter Monday) we went to Oakbank races again, just the three of us, [NP215] would not go. There was frustration for Ken as [NP215] said he was going and then pulled out at the last minute. He said he didn't want to go because some other people had pulled out.

12. On Tuesday after the day at the races we drove to Claire VALLEY, there was just [NP215], Ken and I. We picked Ken's mother up at Snowtown. [NP215] gave Ken and I the cold shoulder that day. We had stopped for lunch and [NP215] was carrying on about Ken making decisions for him. [NP215] made everyone feel quite

Witness: 

Signature: 

STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Murder of Kenneth BRENNAN

Name: SULLIVAN, John Lyle

uncomfortable all day. Later in the afternoon we took Kens mum back to Snowtown and then we went to her house in Kadina. We stayed at Kens mothers house that evening. The next day we just toured around and did a bit of sight seeing and then drove back to Adelaide. That night we stayed at the North Adelaide apartment.


13. On the Thursday everyone did their own thing, Ken, [NP215] and I had dinner that evening and stayed at the Nth. Adelaide apartment. On the Friday we drove back to Melbourne, [NP215] slept most of the way, or he pretended to be asleep. We stayed at my place that evening and the next day they went of sight seeing for the day. That night we had dinner at a restaurant with Larry as well and then Sunday we had lunch with [1277] and then I dropped Ken and [NP215] off at the airport at 4.30pm. That was the last time that I saw Ken alive.

14. Since that time I had several phone calls from Ken and the letters that he had written me. The last time I spoke to him was the Wednesday before he died and he discussed that he was not coming to Melbourne for the weekend. We also spoke about [NP215] and that was encouraging him to see other people but the situation was still the same in the relationship.

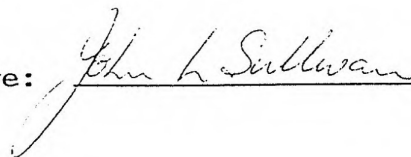
15. Ken was also worried about [NP215] financially. The pay out that [NP215] had received was gone and he nothing to show for it. He relied on Ken for financial support, Ken payed for food and rent and I think in the end he finally got [NP215] to pay for the phone bill.

16. Towards the end of May I received a two page handwritten letter from Ken. The letter is dated Tuesday the 24 April, 1995.

Witness: _____



Signature: _____



STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Murder of Kenneth BRENNAN

Name: SULLIVAN, John Lyle

ANNEXURE A: - TWO PAGE HANDWRITTEN LETTER DATED 24 APRIL, 1995.

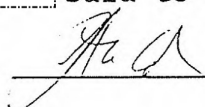
The first comment "No phone call tonight" means that Ken has decided to write a letter instead of telephoning. The next reference to a "Train" refers to [NP215] constant threats to hurt himself. Halfway down the page there is mention of "Health Business." This relates to Kens theory that [NP215] may be HIV positive. Ken had told me that [NP215] had told him that [NP215] had had unprotected sex with a friend by the name of [I278] who was HIV positive. This was supposed to have occurred when Ken and [NP215] were in their relationship and [NP215] used this as a testing measure to their relationship.

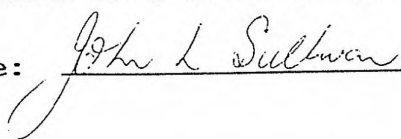
17. [NP215] constantly seemed to use threats of this nature to emotionally blackmail Ken. On one hand [NP215] seemed to be very dependant on Ken and on the other hand he would threaten to run off with other people. I knew that Ken still had feelings for [NP215] but I could'nt believe that Ken could have so much patience with him.

18. A week or so after the letter dated the 24 April, 1995, I received another handwritten letter from ken. In that letter there was a two page handwritten document with Sunday written at the top and a further three page handwritten document with Monday written at the top.

ANNEXURE: - TWO PAGE HANDWRITTEN LETTER MARKED SUNDAY AND THREE PAGE HANDWRITTEN LETTER MARKED MONDAY.

19. On the Wednesday night after Kens death, I received a phone call from [NP215]. At this stage I did not know about Ken's death. He said to me You better sit down. I immediately thought Ken had had a heart attack as I knew he had a problem with his health. [NP215] said to me, "Kens dead." I cant remember if I asked or not

Witness: 

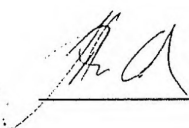
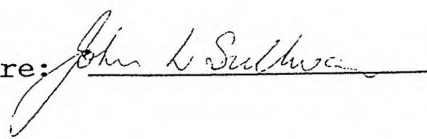
Signature: 

STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Murder of Kenneth BRENNAN

Name: SULLIVAN, John Lyle

or whether NP215 had just said he had been murdered. NP215 then went on and spoke about the fact that he had been hit with a fry-pan and stabbed seventeen times. That there was blood all over the stereo and walls of the unit. He said that underpants had been found beside Kens body and that a window in the lounge room was open but they could not have jumped out there because they would have left footprints in the garden bed. He further stated that he had been dragged into the police station each day and questioned. He also said there were used condoms lying around. He also talked about the fact that the door was dead locked and Ken's keys were inside the flat, so the murdered could not get out the door with out keys. He spoke calmly for ten minutes about the murder scene and then commenced to speak for about 40 minutes on how he was feeling, he said, that he was not sleeping and had been to the doctor and that the police were questioning him and generally going on about how he was not coping.

20. Ken was the type of person who could mix with people so easily, he was a good friend and a great support for me, you could discuss problems with him easily. He was non judgemental and a caring person. I was very shocked to hear he had been murdered. He was very accepting of other people and their friends and had a great respect for others.

Witness:  _____Signature:  _____