



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

11 May 2023

Clint Cochrane
 Laboratory Manager, Forensic Biology/DNA
 Forensic and Analytical Science Service
 480 Weeroona Road
 LIDCOMBE NSW 2141

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Cochrane

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes – Kenneth Brennan

I refer to the above Inquiry, and to the conference between staff of the Inquiry and the Forensic and Analytical Science Service (“FASS”) on 3 May 2023 regarding the death of Kenneth Brennan.

Death of Kenneth Brennan

Kenneth Brennan died on or about 11 June 1995 at his apartment [REDACTED] Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay. Mr Brennan suffered approximately 13 stab wounds inflicted by a person or persons unknown. Crime scene officers located various exhibits at the scene including three used condoms, a pair of Yves Saint Laurent (“YSL”) underpants and a distorted Namco frypan.

Forensic Testing

A number of exhibits were forensically tested by FASS as part of the initial NSW Police Force investigation into Mr Brennan’s death, and again as part of a forensic review undertaken by the Unsolved Homicide Team in the course of in the course of Strike Force Skarratt (2016 – 2019).

Records held by the Inquiry indicate that DNA testing undertaken to date has identified a partial unknown DNA profile with 14 out of 40 alleles (referred to as the Unknown Male B) on the following exhibits:

1. The condom located on the rim of the toilet, which contained a quantity of sperm; and
2. The inside of the front section of the YSL underpants.

The Inquiry understands that there has been no match to this Unknown Male B profile identified to date.

Further, records indicate that blood was detected on the handle of the frypan collected from the crime scene, but at the time of initial testing, this profile was too weak for analysis.

Request for Further Forensic Testing

The Inquiry requests that further forensic analysis be conducted with view to:

1. Advancing the identification of Unknown Male B; and

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

2. Obtaining a DNA profile from the bloodstain on the handle of the distorted Namco frypan.

The Inquiry would be grateful if any profiles obtained could be compared to profiles in any relevant database available to FASS, including the National Criminal Investigation DNA database.

Request for expert certificate

The Inquiry seeks an expert certificate setting out the analysis undertaken and results in relation to the above. Where particular tests and/or analysis cannot be undertaken, or are considered to be of no utility, please refer to this in the certificate.

It would be of assistance to the Inquiry if the certificate could be provided to the Inquiry by **25 May 2023**. In the event that you anticipate any difficulty with this timeframe, please let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing assistance to the Inquiry.

Please do not hesitate to contact Hermione Nicholls on [REDACTED] if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Hermione Nicholls

Senior Solicitor

Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry