

NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.2 (07/09

STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of:

Strike Force Annand

Place:

Surry Hills Police Station, Surry Hills

Date:

30 May 2016

Name:

1361

STATES:

- 1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that 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 will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
- 2. I am 42 years of age.
- 3. In September 2009, I was 35 years old.
- On 23rd September 2009, I was the victim of an assault which occurred on Anzac Parade, Moore Park.
- 5. When I reported the assault at Surry Hills Police Station. I made a statement to a police officer who was on duty at the station. I remember this statement being typed on a computer. I may have received a copy of the statement at the time, but I don't have a copy of this statement now. I have moved house several times in the years that have passed.
- 6. I have been shown a copy of a 2 page statement which is in my name, but unsigned, and dated 23rd September 2009. I have read this statement and recognise this statement as being the statement I made to the Police officer regarding the assault. This statement is brief but I acknowledge it as being accurate and consistent with my memories of what happened. On page 2 there appears to be a typographical, with the date written as 22/09/2009 instead of 23/09/2009.

Witness:

Name: Date: Melanie Staples Detective Senior Constable 30/05/2016 Signature:

Name: Date: 1361

I361 30/05/2016

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I PRODUCE A COPY OF THIS UNSIGNED STATEMENT

- 7. I have been asked to expand upon the information contained in this initial statement and I will do so with reference to the paragraphs in the first statement.
- 8. Paragraph 3 of my initial statement said: About 4.10am on Wednesday 23 September 2009 I was walking north along Anzac Parade, Moore Park on the western curb outside the Sydney Girls High School. I was walking alone and I could not see anyone else near me.
- 9. In addition to this, I remember it clearly because Sydney was experiencing a dust storm. I was walking back from a friend's house in Randwick. I wasn't intoxicated. It was an early Wednesday morning and I don't usually drink during the week. I was walking along the eastern side of Anzac Parade at Moore Park; not on the western side like the first statement says. When I was opposite Sydney Girls High School I heard yelling and screaming from the other side of the road. A male voice was yelling, "Why are you looking at me?" "You look at me." He repeated this a number of times as well as saying other things. The man seemed determined to get my attention. I looked to my left and saw a man standing 40 or 50 metres away from me on the other side of the road. He was standing near the corner of Anzac Parade and Cleveland Street outside Sydney Girls High School. I didn't respond. I ignored the man and continued to walk along the footpath. I picked up my pace because I didn't want to get into an altercation with anybody.
- 10. Detective Staples has shown me a map and aerial image of the area around Sydney Girls High School. I have marked on the map my position with a dash (-) where I was positioned when the man was yelling out to me; and I have marked with a cross (x) where I first saw the man. I have also indicated my path of travel with a series of arrows. I have also marked with a circle (O) where the assault occurred.

I PRODUCE THIS MAP AND AERIAL IMAGE

11. Paragraph 4 and 5 of my initial statement said: At this time I heard something behind me and I turned around to look. I saw a male walking directly behind me approximately five (5) metres away.

Witness:

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I would describe this male as African, in his early 20's, about 175 to 180 centimetres tall, of a medium build, with a shaved head, wearing a grey coloured jacket and long dark pants.

12. I turned back around, moving over towards the road so he could past me if needed, and continued walking. Immediately after turning around I felt something hit me twice in the back of the head. I turned around and the male said "Why did you say what you said to me before down the street".

I Said - "No".

- 13. In addition to this I will say that I remember the man very clearly. The main thing missing from the description in my first statement is a description of his accent. The man spoke in English with a dense accent. From his accent and his facial appearance I believed the man was from one of the former British colonies in west Africa such as Ghana or a nearby country. He was a dark skinned African. The man also had a very rounded face. When I say he had a shaved head, the man had black hair which was short as in shaved like a number 1 or number 2. I would say the man was of medium or average build. I am 183cm tall (6 feet) and the man was definitely shorter than me, I'd say about 5 feet 9 to 5 feet 10 inches tall. I don't remember any prints or anything descriptive on the grey coloured jacket. I can't recall whether or not the jacket had a hood. I would describe the clothes as being casual, they weren't like tradies work clothes.
- 14. I don't remember seeing the man holding anything in his hands. He didn't seem to have anything on him. When I was struck on the back of the head, it felt like a whack and a grab as much as a hit. It didn't feel like a punch. I felt that the man was determined to get me for whatever reason. I don't know why the man said to me "Why did you say what you said to me before down the street". I had not had any conversation with the man.
- 15. This interaction with the man occurred a few minutes later I'd first seen him. I had walked about another 100 metres further down Anzac Parade. When the man spoke to me on this second occasion I identified his voice as being the same voice that had yelled out to me a couple of minutes before. This interaction with the man only occurred a few minutes after I'd first seen him. I had walked about another 100 metres further down Anzac Parade.

Witness:

Name: Date: Melanie Staples
Detective Senior Constable
30/05/2016

Signature: Name: 136

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- 16. Paragraph 6 of my initial statement said: I began dodging the male in an attempt to escape, while he stood close, continuing to lunge towards me and the red bag I was carrying. After a short period I ran onto the middle of Anzac Parade and scaled the fence dividing the north and south bound lanes in an attempt to escape from the male. Once over the fence I looked back and saw the male running away in a southerly direction along Anzac Parade. By this time there were cars travelling in both directions unlike before which I think has deterred the male from following me.
- 17. In addition to this I will say that the man was lunging and grabbing at me and I felt like he was wanting to get at the red sports bag that I was carrying on my shoulder. It was the fact that I ran away that stopped the assault. I ran onto across Anzac Parade and climbed over the fence which separates the north and south bound lanes. I was at least 50 metres further away before I turned around to see if the man was following me. There was now a flow of cars on Anzac Parade and I saw that the man was running back in the direction from which he'd come.
- 18. Paragraphs 7 or 8 of my initial statement said: I continued to walk north to St Vincent's Hospital on Victoria Street in Darlinghurst where the laceration on the back of my head was glued together. After a short time at the hospital I walked to Surry Hills Police Station where I made this statement.
- 19. As a result of the punch from the male I received a small laceration to the back of my head and I felt immediate pain from the impact. I did not give the male permission to assault me at any stage. The entire incident lasted for approximately 4 to 5 minutes.
- 20. In addition to this, following the assault I knew I was bleeding from the back of the head. I touched my head and both felt and saw that there was blood. I went straight to St Vincents Hospital via South Dowling Street. I went to the Emergency Department and was treated by an English nurse. I was treated and released.

21. I'd never seen the man previously and I've never seen him again since.

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