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5 <ANTONY JEAN WYZYNSKI(3.10PM)
AFFIRMED AND EXAMINED

LAKATOS: Q. Is your full name Antony John Wyzynski?
A. Yes.

10 Q. And do you reside at flat [REDACTED]
Paddington?
A. Yes.

15 Q. You're a pensioner?
A. Yes.

Q. I think you are now 41 years old?
A. Forty two now.

20 Q. In 1978 you became friends with Gilles Mattaini, did
you not?
A. That's correct.

25 Q. And that was in Paris, France your country or origin?
A. Yes that's correct. I was actually friends with
Jacques and when Jacques met Gilles I became friends with
Gilles and Jacques, Jacques and Gilles.

30 Q. I understand that your friendship was through Jacques
but eventually you became friends with Gilles as well
through that connection or not?
A. Yes.

35 Q. Perhaps?
A. Yes, yes we became very friendly.

40 Q. Gilles and Jacques were then living with you and both
of them went to Sydney, to your knowledge, in March of
1983?
A. Yes. We moved in together in 1980 and I stayed in
that same flat for five years but in '83 they both leaving
separate.

45 Q. Can I ask you - no just stay seated and talk into it a
little bit louder it would be very good. It's a little
hard--

50 CORONER: Q. Because there's a terrible noise in the
background of the motor.

LAKATOS: Q. I understand it's hard work but we probably
need to hear you if you can do that for us?
A. Okay. Can you hear me now.

55 CORONER: Q. I can hear you yes.

LAKATOS: Q. I can thank you?
A. Yes as I said we all shared a flat in Paris. In '83

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they decided to visit Australia and come to Australia and next question.

5 Q. The next question. You say that you kept in contact with them after they moved to Australia?

A. Constantly yes, they were my best friends.

Q. What by telephone or by letter or by both?

10 A. Telephone was very expensive at the time so we must have - I recall to - receive lots of, how do you call it, boxes from Gilles with some tapes of Australian music, things like that for me to discover the kind of things they do here, they listen. He sent me tapes of Prisoner which I could not understand a word.

15

CORONER: Q. A prisoner?

A. It was his favourite show.

LAKATOS: Q. And what Kylie Minogue?

20 A. No she wasn't around--

CORONER: She wasn't around in those--

25 WITNESS: She was not around at the time. So that just to give me an idea of what kind of lifestyle it is here and so it was all done by mail and phone I suppose but it was done on a very regular basis except phone. I can't tell you how many times we phoned or--

30 LAKATOS: Q. You say in your statement that Gilles did not integrate into Australian lifestyle as well as Jacques, is that right?

35 A. Just I have to say that Jacques moved to Australia first and Gilles followed him ..(not transcribable).. so I actually become very very close with Gilles in Paris while Jacques was away because he was by himself without him and he was feeling lonely without him so we became extremely close to the point where we kept the relationship going and that's what made me want to come and visit him.

40

Q. Right but the question I had was--

A. I think that was very important to mention.

45 Q. I understand and I agree but the next question I think is that you formed the impression - at least this is what you wrote in your statement - that Gilles didn't integrate into Australian lifestyle as well as Jacques?

50 A. I think it's because he was shy and I was under the impression that his English was not very good but from talking to different friends I think I was wrong, his English was quite good because he was able to work and I had a problem - I spoke English very well but when I arrived here I probably - because your Australian accent is very different so on that basis I thought he was not
55 integrating very well. That's all I'm basis.

Q. I think you also referred to some visa problems that Gilles had?

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5 A. To me not a great deal no. I knew about his visa status but not to the fact that - the relationship I had with him was very different from Jacques. It was a very much a buddy friendship relationship. It was not like - I was like sort of his confidant so it was - must not have worried him to the point so bad that I wouldn't have known about it because--

10 Q. Did he say something that indicated to you--
A. I can't recall of any--

15 Q. You don't recall?
A. We talked about the fact that he had to renew his visa, the technical aspect but the worrying aspect certainly at the end but basically maybe his visa was running out, I'm not too sure but our conversation was based on the fact that I was coming.

20 Q. Well moving to that in June '85 you decided to come and visit Gilles and Jacques for a holiday here?
A. That's right.

25 Q. You spoke to both of them and arranged a number of things before coming to Australia?
A. Yes.

30 Q. And when you spoke to Gilles what was his state of mind at the prospect of your coming and visiting him?
A. Exhilarating.

35 Q. Extremely happy, exhilarating?
A. Yes because as I said we became very close friends and I had a problem with my relationship at the time so to me was like an escape and to see both of them was--

Q. Something to look forward to?
A. Yes and he knew about my problems and my relationship so he was very--

40 Q. You say in your statement that around 15 September you spoke to Gilles on the telephone?
A. Yes I believe it was September--

45 Q. September '85?
A. '85 yes.

50 Q. That was at a time when Jacques was in France, was it not?
A. He was staying at my place yes and that conversation was with Jacques as well. We were all in the same room.

55 Q. How do you remember that date as being the date? How do you remember it? I mean it's a very - it was a long time - you made your statement 10 years back I'm just curious how you pin that date?
A. Well to me it's a guess and I mean I base it on the facts that I arrived on the 29th so it's a calculation but I mean--

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Q. So it's some week or ten days before you arrived?

A. Yeah.

5 Q. You tell us that Gilles talked about buying sheets and bedding items for you--

A. Yes.

10 Q. --when you arrived?

A. And he did.

10 Q. How did he sound on the telephone?

15 A. Joyful. We talked about what he bought and I think I must have mentioned that you go too much trouble for me and when I get there we'll just, you know, go on from there but he was - the fact that I was coming made him a purpose I would say.

20 Q. Was there anything in his manner or what he said which caused you to have any concern about him?

20 A. Absolutely not. On the contrary.

25 Q. Now some four days later you received a telephone call from Vincent Ottoviani, did you not?

25 A. I believe it was, yes the same phone call that Jacques did. We were together so.

30 Q. And you then learned that Gilles didn't attend at work and he was missing?

30 A. Yes that's correct.

35 Q. Mr Ottoviani told you that he had gone to Gilles flat, found that everything was in tact and that his passport and house keys were still there, is that correct?

35 A. Yes.

40 Q. Do you specifically recall a reference to the house keys?

40 A. No.

45 Q. So that's just as best a memory as you can have so many years after the event?

45 A. Basically everything was in tact. That there was no indication in the flat that he'd been robbed or why he disappeared or that he ran away even.

50 Q. No notes, no explanation?

50 A. No.

55 Q. You arrived in Australia on 29 September 1985?

55 A. That's correct.

60 Q. You were picked up by Vincent?

60 A. Correct.

65 Q. Where did you go when you came when you arrived here with Vincent?

65 A. To the Glenrock Cafe in Bondi.

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Q. Yes to the which?

A. The Glenrock Cafe where we dropped my bags and we went - I think was working Jacques - no Jacques was not back yet.

5

Q. All right and in any event did you and Vincent then go and try and look for where Gilles might have gone?

A. We did I think yes.

10 CORONER: Q. Now I'm just going to stop you there. You've moved - that's it.

LAKATOS: Q. Where did you go looking for Gilles?

15 A. I can't really recall because I first arrived in Australia, I've never been here before so when I arrived Vin showed me Sydney and we went absolutely everywhere so the fact that we looked for Gilles was included so we went for walks through the park but we also went to Bronte. We went everywhere. He showed me Sydney basically because
20 I've never been here.

Q. Do you understand that Vincent reported the disappearance of Gilles to police?

A. Yes.

25

Q. Were you present when he did that?

A. I could not say for certain. I think I was but I could not say for certain because the reason I'm saying that is I've got a picture in my head of the police
30 station in Paddington, Chelsea Road for some reason. That's the only reason but as far as talking to the police at the time no I would have left it to Vincent.

35 Q. You say in your statement that you and Vincent tried to trace Gilles steps where he had been and one possibility was Marks Park at Tamarama?

A. That's correct.

40 Q. So far as your knowledge of Gilles was concerned we now know that is a gay beat. If you didn't know it before, and I've asked Jacques this question, on your knowledge of Gilles would he have gone to Marks Park for the purpose of meeting other men?

A. Certainly not.

45

Q. Why do you say that? Why do you form that opinion?

A. Because the reason why - to be very - the reason was why I had problem in my relationship was because I was promiscuous and he was not. He had a - it was the total
50 opposite he was very shy, I was not so we talked a lot about my affairs, I would say and that was making him laugh basically so.

55 Q. So he was the opposite to you?

A. Exactly.

Q. I think you stated that you stayed in Sydney for about a year and still no sign of Gilles?

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5 A. No. What happened is most of it was left to Vin. I was very worried about Jacques of course and then the relationship with Vincent became very sour because he started to believe that I came here to replace Gilles in a way and so a lot of people started to sort of not like me very much.

CORONER: Q. Did you say to replace him?

10 A. Yes. Like I didn't know Vincent very well but - I didn't know many people very well here at all so I become very friendly with another friend of ours, who's dead now and there was a bit of jealousy between the whole thing because yes--

15 LAKATOS: Q. Was that to replace Gilles as Jacques partner?

20 A. No, no, no. I'm saying trying to - they probably thought that I was trying to make too much effort to become their friends or something like that which - I suppose it all had to do with the fact that, you know, they were very upset and I was very upset too about Gilles disappearance and Vincent turned on me, he took it out on me basically for some reason because I was maybe - I don't know I was different from Gilles, I don't know exactly
25 what was in his mind but he started to not talk to me and things like that.

CORONER: Q. Do you think you and Gilles had a different relationship than a friendship, do you think you were
30 perhaps more intimidate than you were telling them?

A. You mean sexually?

Q. Yes?

35 A. No, no absolutely not.

Q. So Vincent wouldn't have thought that?

40 A. He probably would have been very jealous of the closeness of us because we became very close and Vince became very close as well so there was a bit of a competition as far as friendship, nothing sexual.

Q. Nothing sexual but an intimacy as friends?

45 A. Exactly yes. Vincent was someone who was very exclusive so.

LAKATOS: Q. Now did you come to know that Marks Park had a reputation in about 1985 and following as a place where
50 gay men would go?

A. Not immediately but sometime in the late '80s yes.

Q. Was it common knowledge or at least did you know that that was also the scene of where people were attacked?

55 A. I've been told, probably by some gay friends at work or something like that, that it could be a dangerous place yeah.

Q. Was the experience for you, as a gay person in and around Sydney, have you experienced being attacked by

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people or not, witnessed it, experienced it in this fashion?

A. Been attached no but I've experienced people trying to but nothing happened to me.

5

Q. What was it that you saw, very briefly, just a short description?

A. Basically men cruising around in a park and just two cars arriving and parking very - and a few mens getting out of the car and running towards where the gay mens are and then everybody just flies away and sometimes they catch one, I don't know, I'm already gone by that time.

10

Q. Where did this occur?

15

A. At Marks Park.

Q. Marks Park I see?

20

A. Yeah. I saw that I think maybe on two occasions but I've always been told to have in my self a whistle so I always, when this occur, always blew my whistle to kind of--

CORONER: Q. That was in the '80s, was it?

25

A. Late '80s yes. I suppose going on to the '90s because I stayed in Bondi until 1995.

LAKATOS: Q. As the years passed after Gilles disappearance it appears none of his friends approach the police. Was there any reason why--

30

A. Yes.

Q. --Jacques or you didn't knock on the door and say look this man's been gone for years, what's happening?

35

A. Yes. The reason why is well first of all it was left - a lot was left to Vincent. There was ..(not transcribable).. that I talked about with Vincent and the second reason is Jacques, as he mentioned, had a lot of problems therefore it was a very taboo subject. We never ever discussed Gilles, ever at home and I was very sad about that because Jacques went introverted and I'm very very extraverted so I wanted to talk to someone about it and do something but Vincent wouldn't want to when Jacques was shutting himself up so that's one of the reasons. The other reason would be that in the '80s, he was gay, he was French, he was - maybe he was illegal, that's to be debated, so I wouldn't have gone myself to put myself in the situation. I was French, I was gay and I was also - I had a bit of the same situation but a little bit easier for me so going to the authorities and to take over this was - but I wanted to. Believe me I wanted to.

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45

50

Q. Can I just very quickly finish up with you. In 1986 I think you went back to France and contacted Gilles parents?

55

A. Yes I went - actually I was here just on holidays and I actually ended up staying for a year because Jacques was not well and so after a year I went back to France. At the time it was holidays but I wanted to come back here, I

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fell in love with this country and that's when I contacted the family.

5 Q. His father, Gilles father didn't want to have anything to do with him or with you and you spoke to his mother?
A. Yeah he actually walked out when I walked in.

10 CORONER: Q. Who the father walked out?
A. Yes. They were a very - what's the word - old fashioned Italian immigrant people so his dad was a younger man automatically associated to his son and I believe he - what's the word - refute or rejected his son when - because of his homosexuality so when I walked in he walked out and his mum was very welcoming.

15 Q. And his mother told you of his two previous suicide attempts--
A. Yes.

20 Q. --which Mr Musy has told the Court about?
A. Yes.

25 Q. And that that was what she told you that he had a--
A. Yes that's the first time I've actually heard about it.

30 Q. You also record that his mother told you she wasn't surprised of Gilles' disappearance, she believed he committed suicide?
A. Yes. I was actually disappointed by her attitude. She was - like I said she said "I'm not surprised". It was almost like she was expecting it and it just made me a bit, a bit spooky.

35 Q. You arranged for Gilles belongings to be sent back to his family?
A. Yes she gave me - while dad was not watching - she went and got some money and gave it to take care of his belongings yes.

40 Q. And I think you stayed in Australia since that time becoming an Australian citizen--
A. Yes I did in '88.

45 Q. In '98, '88?
A. '88 yes.

50 Q. In '88 fine and finally you came to the police by reason of reading an article in the Star Observer, did you not, about their reinvestigation of a number of offences--
A. That's correct.

55 Q. --is that so?
A. That's correct.

Q. And then you met Detective Page and he got a statement from you--
A. That's correct.

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Q. --and you arranged for Mr Musy to also attend, is that correct?

A. Yes that's correct.

5

Q. Or you attended together?

A. Yes.

10 Q. Can I ask you this finally, do you know now of any reason why Gilles Mattaini would have taken his life in 1985?

15 A. No and the difference with - between Jacques and I is that they had a relationship so Jacques, his conclusion was pretty much immediate. I've never reacted like that. I've always had suspicion, I've always left it open as far as what happened to him.

Q. So you simply don't know?

20 A. Exactly and that's what prompt me to, when I read the article to contact the police because to me that he committed suicide that day or that night was a certainty for many years, it's never been one for me not - based on the last conversation that I had with him and the fact that he was waiting for me and see me and we were seeing
25 each other a lot.

SAIDI: Q. Back in 1985 Marks Park had a reputation for being dangerous. At least I should indicate that's what you said in your statement?

30 A. Yes. As I said I arrived in '85 and I didn't know Sydney so I can't really say that it was in '85 or '86.

Q. All right but it doesn't matter which year but you say the mid-80s onwards?

35 A. Maybe a few months later I started to go for walks. I mean it could have been already '86 myself and then told some gay friend who told me that I shouldn't do that.

40 Q. But you said in your statement that you became aware that men had been bashed around that area, bashed and robbed?

A. Yes.

45 Q. And they were too scared to report it to the police, is that what they told you?

A. Yes that was the talk in the gay community I would say.

Q. Has that changed at all in the last 15 or more years?

50 A. You mean as far as reporting?

Q. Yes?

A. I think so yes, very much so.

55 Q. Do you think that - and again I'm going on your experience mixing with the gay community - do you think that now they're more likely to go to a police station and report it, if they get bashed and robbed?

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A. Can I tell you about my experience lately. Last year, I think, I got mugged on my way home. They took my wallet with my identification. I did not report it straight away, I went home first. Then I was a bit traumatised so
 5 a friend picked me up and we went for a drink and there was police outside the Taylor Square, the Oxford, they was a bit of a fight and the two men who robbed me passed by so I was in shock then I went to the police and I said "I just got mugged and the ones who mugged me are there" and
 10 the attitude of the police was well what do you want us to do and I said well what do you mean? I mean I would have thought that they would have straight away go to talk to them and they asked me do you want us to go and talk to them, do you want to press charges and I just stopped for
 15 a minute and said well what's going to happen, they going - they busy they don't need to talk to them and maybe they going to be done for the night and tomorrow morning they'll be outside my place because they've got my address and so I told that to the police and they were extremely,
 20 extremely aggressive and told me why are you bothering us then and they started to add an attitude and ask me for my name, my address and I thought - I was confused to tell you the truth. I knew they were busy with what was going on outside, there was a fight or something but I didn't
 25 think it was very ..(not transcribable).. attitude. I would have thought that the attitude would have changed.

Q. I'm sorry I'm not sure I fully understood you but they asked you if you wanted them to do something and you said
 30 - you said no?

A. Well I told them they have my address what are my options, you know, what are you going to do, you know, and I understand if you don't press charges they can't do
 35 anything much but if you press charges that puts burdens on me because then they have my address and I went and they were there, they saw me talking to the police and pointing at them so obviously, you know, that was putting me in danger so in a very quick time I must have changed
 40 my mind and that must have upset the police as it would but you know I had to think of myself as well, you know.

Q. All right but let me deal - that was your experience?

A. Okay I understand.

45 Q. But let me deal more broadly--

A. But you asked me about the--

CORONER: Q. Yes he did. He did and that's your answer?

50 A. So I'm telling you it has changed but now I've got reason if something happened to me I would have reserve to do it again.

Q. And more broadly dealing with the people who you mix with I imagine you'd go to a hotel where there are gay
 55 people, or clubs--

A. Not any more too much smoke.

Q. Well wherever gay people may might, a big hotel or

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other areas where they socialise is it fair to say thought that over the last few years at least, perhaps the last five or ten years gay people themselves, from what you know, have come to understand that they can more readily go to the police?

5 A. Yes. Yes it's much more organised now, there's lots of groups, there's lot of the AV people ..(not transcribable).. There is advertising in gay peoples that there is a number of places you can go. There has been, I think - I don't know how many years ago a gay liaison police officers as well so all this - I don't know if all gay communities who are - I am aware of this and I think it's a very good thing. A lot of young gay people from the suburbs that come to the city to have fun they might not know that but it's a good thing yes, it has changed.

Q. And again from what you've seen mixing in the gay community, as far as you do, and reading the gay papers or literature?

20 A. Yep.

Q. And that seems then the message is getting out there to the gay members that if they do get themselves into trouble that the police are there to help?

25 A. Yes, certainly yes. There is a case at the moment in a park where he's disappearance(?). I don't know if you know but the same case.

CORONER: Q. What's this, I'm sorry?

30 A. There is a case in the papers, in the gay paper at the moment where they're looking for, I think it's two men, for the same reason for bashing in a park. It was in the paper last week I think so.

35 Q. In which one, in the Star Observer?

A. Yes, yes. I think it's Belmore Park.

Q. Belmore Park?

40 A. Yeah. You'd have to check.

Q. Up near St Vincents Hospital? St Vincents Hospital--

A. No, no it's in a suburb somewhere.

45 SAIDI: Q. Again I'm just going - sir I'm just going on your experience. Do you think the message is there now fairly clearly that if gay people find themselves in trouble, whether it's because they get bashed up or because they're in a beat and they get harassed or if they're at a club and someone picks on them because they're gay do you think the message is there that--

50 A. The message is there as far as it's up to the individual to know. As I said some people have different experience with the police and every individual has got the message yes.

55 Q. Let me just now just finish that question. Do you think the message is there that the police are there to help even if they're gay if they find themselves in

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trouble?

A. That's a tricky one. The message is there but--

CORONER: Q. Is it strong enough do you think?

5 A. I don't know. It's just I'm not too involved in the
gay community to give you an answer. I think it's a
question of trust between along - the relationship between
the gay community and the police and that was a terrible
10 one for many men for many many years due to the first
Mardi Gras riot here so the history of the relationship
between gays and police was very bad so to mend that
relationship just reading gay newspaper I think it's
getting better as far as trusting each other now. Does
the gay trust the police that's - I can't tell you.

15 SAIDI: Q. Well you may be answer this or you may not.
If you can't just say you can't but back in the 1980s gay
people were a bit scared or reluctant to report the fact
that they were bashed to the police when it happened at
20 gay beats. On your experience now do you think that
they're still so reluctant or do you think that's
improved, that is that they've been more willing to go to
the police?

25 A. Yes it has improved but not here but in Europe in '78
I was bashed and raped and I could not go to the police to
report it, there was no way the police ..(not
transcribable).. at the time.

30 Q. That was in Europe was it?

A. That was in Europe yeah and I mean the world has
changed since then thank God.

LAKATOS: I have nothing further.

35 CORONER: Q. It was your decision alone to come forward
and report Mr Mattaini's disappearance again to Mr Page
after you saw the article in the paper or did you sort of-

40 A. I just - because it was a very casual call, it was
nothing really.

Q. But that was a decision that you took yourself?

45 A. Yes I - it was the wrong thing to do. I should have
talked to Jacques about it first I think would have been
more appropriate. I didn't think it would involve anybody
else but I'm happy that I've done it.

Q. Yes I'm very glad that you did and thank you for
taking that initiative--

50 A. You're welcome.

Q. --it's important because Gilles--

55 A. As I've said I've always - doing my statement - said
that I was very frustrated about the fact that nothing has
been done about it and I could not have done anything
about it so for the first time I could.

Q. And then you feel guilty yourself because you think

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well maybe I should have done more at the time?

A. Absolutely that's quite right and I mean I haven't
been asked about the Gilles' ..(not transcribable)..
situation but many many many times I've seen Gilles
5 everywhere in my dreams, in the supermarket so I have lots
of psychological nightmares about that.

Q. Coming forward and speaking to the police about his
disappearance has that helped you settle a little or not?
10 Are you still feeling the same way?

A. It was a long time ago so I mean I moved on a long
time ago--

Q. That's good?

A. --but night it's - of course it's bad, you know it's
15 bad, you know for the other person that if that can help,
you know, people that have been wrongly murdered or bashed
or whatever--

Q. Yes it's important--

A. --it is very important.

Q. Of course it is and as you've said attitudes have
changed but gee they needed to, didn't they and they're
25 still not where you would like them to be, there's still a
lot of work to be done. I'm not just talking about the
police I'm just talking about community in general?

A. Yeah there's education everywhere. I mean not only in
30 gay communities, you know, it's all over the world. I
mean there's a war on at moment nobody knows why you know.

Q. That's right. We're still waiting to find out the
reason?

A. Yeah.
35

Q. All right, Mr Wyzynski now that's not a French name?

A. Polish. They moved during the war to France.

Q. Well that's very good. Mr Wyzynski thank you. Thank
40 you first for coming forward and then for participating in
the inquest. Like Mr Musy there's a lot of feelings that
have resurfaced now that you probably thought that you'd
put to rest and it's been difficult for you both but I
thank you for making that effort?

A. You're welcome.
45

Q. I think Gilles was worth it and as you said to help to
put together a complete picture so we can help other
50 people in the future is very important and you've been
very courage to--

A. I hope that I've been of help.

Q. Thank you and you have helped. You may step down now.

55 <WITNESS RETIRED