



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.5 (05/2015)

## STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

**In the matter of:** Disappearance of Ross WARREN  
**Place:** Wollongong Police Station  
**Date:** 22 June 2017

**Name:** Mary Alfreda PAPAKOSMAS

### 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 53 years of age.
3. I worked for WIN TV from 1985 to 2000. My duties whilst at WIN TV was as a journalist/producer and news presenter. I presented the 6pm news from Monday to Friday from 1987 to 2000. I also had promotional duties. All the presenters were asked to go to functions and events. During my time working at WIN I had my maiden name of FRANKS but in 2001 I married and changed my surname to my married name of PAPAKOSMAS.
4. As to the first time I met Ross WARREN, I can't remember the exact time that I met Ross but it would have been when he first commenced at WIN. As to his duties at WIN, I recall Ross writing and producing the weather for the Monday to Friday evening news bulletin, he presented the Sunday evening news bulletin at 6.15pm, worked on and presented community service announcements and produced voiceover material. The 6.15pm news was definitely done on Sunday but I'm not sure for the Saturday. In addition to his weather duties he would record/present news breaks and fill in for other persons on presenting the news and sport. I can't recall Ross' exact work times but believe that on a Monday to Friday it would be from 10.00am or 10.30am to 7.30pm. This would vary if he had to do news breaks in addition to his normal duties. For Sunday it would be from 4.00pm or 5.00pm to about 700pm the latest.

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 Detective Senior Constable  
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5. At WIN, Ross had a small group of friends which included myself, Phillip ROSSINI, Chris JONES, who is now deceased, and Michael POSETTI. I'm not sure how close he was to Michael POSETTI but Michael was one of his immediate bosses. Michael was the Production manager and Terry MOORE was the News Director that Ross would have reported to for the news side of his work. Ross was a very private person but he would still be sociable and someone that was easy to get along with. He was well-liked and a likable person. He was never a difficult person and was never disliked. My friendship with him was more about discussing things such as work, people at work and music. We were both young and bonded because we had just started presenting around the same time and in the early stages of our career. The music he liked was electronic, dance and pop music. Ross never discussed his personal life with me. I'm the type of person that if someone confides something to me I will listen and was never one to pry into someone else's life. If he told me something private I would have not gossiped about it. I can't recall anything private that he said. In terms of his family I remember he had a sister and I felt that family was important to him. He may have told me about what his sister did but I can't remember now being such a long time ago. I don't recall him saying about any issues with his family. With regard to Phillip ROSSINI, as I explained to police when I first spoke to them 04 May 2017 on the phone, I from time to time still keep in touch with him. He currently lives in the USA. At that time I spoke to police I was being upfront that I knew Phil because he was one of the last people to speak with Ross to my understanding. In terms of friends Ross had outside of WIN, I do not know any friends he had outside of work. I knew he socialised in Sydney, he may have mentioned names but I can't recall those now.
6. In the time that I knew Ross, he was a well-liked work colleague at WIN. I do not remember him having any work problems with anyone. I don't remember any conversation where Ross mentioned having any problems or disputes with other persons outside of WIN in his personal life.
7. As to places Ross would frequent or go out to on a social basis in Wollongong or Sydney, I was not aware of any. I remember him saying that he would go to Sydney. Ross liked music and would have gone to venues but I did not know any specific locations that he would have

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attended. When he would go to Sydney I do not know who he specifically stayed with but that it was with friends.

8. I am not aware of any personal relationships that Ross had up until his disappearance. I did not know anything about his private life or what he did in his private life apart from discussing about music and what I said earlier about knowing he had a sister, but again it is such a long time ago that I do not remember. Again, it sounds strange to say that we were friends and not know about aspects of his private life but I was not one to pry into people's personal life.
9. In the time that I knew Ross, I am not aware of him using drugs or not. I did not know much about his private life again. When he was at work he was always extremely professional and his appearance was well presented and articulate. There was nothing that gave me any indication that he abused any substances when I saw him at work.
10. The last time I saw Ross would have been on the Friday before his disappearance at work. My memory is vague on this but I can't recall specifically on that day where exactly and when I saw Ross but I would have seen him in the usual daily routine we had. It could have been in the building, in the make-up room and in the news room and television studio. I don't remember if Ross discussed with me any plans for the weekend of 22 July 1989 to 23 July 1989. During that week prior to Ross' disappearance, I do not recall any specifics that stood out about Ross' behaviour or attitude. Again, I did not know much about his family life. Ross was very private. I do not remember him in that last week I saw him mentioning about what he was going to do on the weekend he disappeared.
11. I first learnt about Ross' disappearance on the Monday after his disappearance being the Monday 24 July 1989 when I attended work. I don't remember how I heard or the circumstances how I heard this. When I found out about this, I felt that it was out of character for Ross to go missing and not attend work. This is because he was always professional and was never flippant about his job and never took it lightly. He was never the type of person to take sickies and was reliable. I don't remember occasions when he was sick whether he would have called because he would have called Terry MOORE or Michael POSETTI I would think. Ross never had a reputation of being late because he was really reliable. My memory of him was that he was a punctual and organised person. I remember there being a lot of confusion

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by work colleagues as to what happened to Ross. People at work were just mystified by it. Many expressed that they were worried about Ross. As time went on people at work might have speculated but I can't recall. In the time before Ross disappeared, I didn't have any indication that he was behaving depressed or had mental health issues, or being disengaged. He was not jaded about work. He just seemed to be the same person that I remember. For Ross' work position, I don't remember what they did to fill in for his position.

12. With regard to WIN management making enquiries as to the whereabouts of Ross after his disappearance, I could only presume that they had made contact with WARREN'S family but was not sure as to what actual enquiries they did. I do not remember any meeting by management with us discussing about Ross' disappearance. After Ross' disappearance, I can recall making a memorial tape (recording) in memory of Ross, but can't recall exactly when this was made. This tape was sent to his family. The tape included some pieces to camera but I don't remember specifics. I don't recall if it included his last news bulletin.
13. When I spoke to Detective RULLO on the phone on 4 May 2017, he said to me that Mr. Terry MOORE, the news director at WIN had told police that I did not attend work a couple of days due to distress at Ross' disappearance. This did not happen and is incorrect as I attended work in the days following Ross' disappearance to my recollection.
14. As to Ross's career aspirations, I remember Ross enjoying his work with television. He was keen with his work. I have no recollection of Ross telling me that he was applying for any media positions. It was early days in his career and I felt that WIN would not be the end of it. Detective RULLO asked me if I knew if Ross had a showreel being prepared before he disappeared. I do not have any recollection of him preparing one. Detective RULLO asked me if I had heard if Ross had gone to Prime TV on the Friday before he disappeared. I don't recall hearing that. There is no other time I can recall of hearing him approaching Prime. In those days the market was WIN versus Prime. WIN was the most established Illawarra South Coast market.
15. When I first met Ross I did not know he was gay. I don't remember when or how I realised this. It was something that I can remember just knowing. I don't ever remember it being a topic of discussion amongst other people. At WIN I do not remember anyone giving Ross a hard time

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for being gay. Ross never was open about being gay but he was never open about his personal traits anyway.

- 16. I do not remember Ross mentioning about any health issues. He never mentioned about any health problems when he was young to adulthood. I never remembering him talking about HIV/AIDS. It was never a topic of discussion to my memory or a preoccupation of his.
- 17. On 04 May 2017 I spoke with Detective RULLO on the phone where he asked me questions about Ross WARREN.
- 18. About 10.00am on Thursday 22 June 2017 I attended Wollongong Police Station and provided this statement.

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