



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.5 (05/2015)

STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of: Disappearance of Ross WARREN

Place: Surry Hills Police Station

Date: 23 June 2017

Name:

I413

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 52 years of age.
3. I grew up in Coogee with my family [REDACTED] I went to school at [REDACTED] at Randwick. After leaving school in 1982 I went straight into the police force and commenced at Darlinghurst Police Station. I was trained in the BAS squad. I left the police force after five years in 1988. I was 23 years old when I left. I left because I got a job as a flight attendant for Qantas, I had always wanted to be a flight attendant but the joining age was 21 years old so I joined the police to bridge the gap.
4. I worked as a flight attendant for 10 years so from 1988 to 1998. I worked for Qantas International. I recall when I first started I was allocated my rostered trip and there would be a 75% stand down time so if I was away on a trip for 10 days I would have 75% of that time as rest. After two or three years this changed and they introduced a bidding system when you could choose your roster and the more senior you were you could have your pick of the trips. The disadvantage of this was that you could be turned around quite quickly after your trip and have less rest days.

Witness:

[REDACTED]
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5. When I was in the police force I lived in Randwick. I believe it was a unit on [REDACTED]. It was at the back of the block, a two bedroom unit. Here I was living with my sister [REDACTED] and her flat mate Alan for a short time, I was just living here briefly between apartments.
6. Towards the end of my career in the police force I moved to a unit at [REDACTED] in Clovelly. I can't recall the street or unit number. The unit had three bedrooms, I think it was on the first floor, quite a large apartment. The outside of the building was a grey or white colour and it was brick. I recall at this unit I was still in the police force and I had a work car and I would park this in the garage of the complex. This garage was designated to my unit. I was renting this unit with Alan, I can't recall his surname. He is now deceased he committed suicide about fifteen years ago. I was also living with my sister [REDACTED]. At the time her surname was [REDACTED].
7. I can't recall how long I lived there for but it was over 12 months. After this I moved to a unit at Bronte. I think it was [REDACTED] it was on a street that goes around the pub at Clovelly. It was walking distance to the beach. This was on the ground floor, it had three big rooms, kitchen, lounge room and bedroom. I lived there by myself. I lived there for a few years, maybe four, five years. I recall when I was living there I was working as a flight attendant the whole time.
8. I was in a relationship with Ross Warren for about three to four months. I am fuzzy on the dates but I was working as a flight attendant when we were together because I had to be in the closet while I was in the police force, the laws hadn't yet changed and I couldn't be a practicing homosexual while I was in the police force.
9. I think I met Ross on a phone chat line for men for men. I can't remember what it was called. The way it worked was that you called a particular number and left a message introducing yourself and what you were interested in, then while you were still on the line you could listen to messages other people left and either push a button to listen to them and you could talk to them live on the phone. You could also listen to messages left by other people and push a button to leave them a message. This could take quite a while on the phone and it was a long drawn out process. Having been a police officer I was aware of the risks of arranging to meet

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someone you didn't know because back in those days no one would be aware of where you were going so anything could happen to you and no one would know where to look.

10. I can't remember if I arranged to meet Ross through the chat line but this was a way I used to meet other men. I can't think of anyone I knew that associated with Ross and myself so I don't think we would have met through friends and not at a gay bar. I just can't associate Ross and meeting him at a gay bar. There were a few occasions where I had met in person men I talked to on the chat line. I would either give out my address and men would come to my place or we would arrange to meet at a cross street and I would drive my car and walk around to make sure the person was alone. From there we would either go back to the person's place or stay in the car. Mostly the purpose for meeting up was for sex. Generally at that time the places to meet for sex were beats, the chat line or bars. I would use beats as well, I used the Coogee beach walk at the southern end of the beach. I had used this a couple of times when I was living at Clovelly, I used the city ones too I think one at Moore Park. Those were open ones so I was more confident with those rather than ones in the toilet block. Some of the other beach ones were a bit more confined as well. I think at the northern end of Coogee that park had beats but it seemed too enclosed for me. I was always aware of the potential for there to be problems at beats. I was always super aware of groups walking around because of the potential that they were there to gay bash. There was also the concern about the police to prey on vulnerable gay men.

11. Ross and I never spoke about beats together, it's not something you would talk about with a partner especially a new partner. I wasn't aware if he did beats. Ross had a high sex drive and had a higher sex drive than me. When we were together it was exclusive on my behalf I don't know if it was for him. Towards the end he may have been seeing other people or interested in other people.

12. I never used the beat at Bondi, I never went around to that side.

13. When we met, Ross was living at Wollongong and working in TV, possibly WIN or I recall something about him applying for a job at WIN so it might have been a new job. I recall this was Ross's dream job and he was very career minded and ambitious. He knew what he wanted with regards to his career. He was a really nice guy, lovely gentle guy.

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14. I think we went out for about three or four months. I have about three or four distinct memories from that time about him. It was a long distance relationship because he was in Wollongong and I was in Sydney. We saw each other on the weekends. I think he had Mondays off so we would see each other Saturday, Sunday and maybe Monday. I recall him having work clothes with him because he would have to go straight to work when he left. When we saw each other we would mostly stay in, it was an early relationship so there was a lot of intimacy and laying around watching movies on Sunday afternoon. We didn't go out very much because he wouldn't want to be recognised. Any opportunity to see each other we would do that but it was frustrating though because some weekends I would be by myself because he'd have family commitments he couldn't get out of.
15. He usually came up to Sydney to see me. I think there was only one occasion I went down to Wollongong and saw him and that was because I had a car, a Voltswagon beetle which was damaged in an accident and I needed to get the car fixed and the place that worked on it was in Wollongong. I think I drove this car down there and Ross picked me up and drove me back up to Sydney. I never saw or knew where Ross was living in Wollongong, I think he did have a flat mate. I don't recall anything about the flat mate.
16. When Ross came up to Sydney he would stay with me at my place. I think this would have been at Clovelly. He would stay in my room. If we ever went out we might go to the beach, we didn't really socialise with my friends up here because Ross didn't know them. I think he had friends in Sydney but I didn't know them. If we went to the beach we would go to Coogee, I remember we went to Centennial Park in Randwick once, we had bought some food and sat down in the park to eat it. I know Ross was driving when he came to see me I think he drove a small to medium light coloured blue car, maybe a mid range Holden or Ford. I drove a white VW beetle.
17. I'm not aware if Ross used drugs, we never used drugs when we were together. [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] we were both focused on our careers. [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] We would drink together, maybe a bottle of wine but nothing major, I wasn't a big drinker. I don't believe either of us smoked. I don't recall seeing

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him smoking. He was a pretty mild mannered guy, I was more dominant in the relationship and he would be more of a follower and easily led.

18. In terms of health problems Ross had a little bit of a lisp and he was aware of that because of work. It was only on a couple of words. He did a lot of training and work on his presentation, as in he would read things in the mirror a lot to make himself presentable and polished.
19. When we were together we would talk a lot on the phone, I didn't really like talking much on the phone. I think when we were together we might have talked two, three times a week. Sometimes they would be long conversations. He spoke to me a lot about his work stuff and his ambition. I think he recognised me as someone who also knew what he wanted out of his career.
20. I recall it was warmer when Ross and I were together. It definately wasn't winter. I was working as a flight attendant and living in Clovelly so I think it might have been a couple of months or six months before he disappeared that we broke up. We broke up because we were fighting a lot because we couldn't see each other often enough. I knew he wouldn't change what he was doing in Wollongong and I wouldn't change what I was doing so we both decided that was it for us. I believe we broke up over the phone, I think we had arguments about it prior to that. I recall some argument about him not being able to get a shirt ready for work, not having enough time to get ready for work. I think it was a mutual decision to break up. After we broke up we didn't speak or see each other after that.
21. I can't remember the person I saw after that, me flying made it difficult to have a relationship or maintain contact with people. I don't recall there being anyone that I was seeing or close to when he disappeared.
22. The first time I heard about Ross going missing was from news reports, the first one was that he was missing and the second was that his car had been found. I think it was reported that a wallet was in his car and some personal items and that it was strange. I think his car was found in a car park somewhere close to the beats on a popular tourist spot. I thought the inference about that was that he was gay. In the back of my mind I thought there was a strong possibility foul play had occurred as in he had tried to get away and fallen or been a victim of a hate crime. I would have been at home when I saw the news. I never thought he committed suicide I just

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thought he disappeared. I tried not to think about it too much because there was lots of bad things happening to gay people at that time. When I first heard the news I ruled out foul play and suicide and thought he might have just disappeared because the pressure got to him and he would just turn up a few months later in Queensland. The pressure I'm referring to would have been from work. He was under pressure to be what they wanted on the network and to keep everyone happy at work. I never got the feeling there was any abnormal pressure from anyone else but more so from the pressure he put on himself. I ruled out foul play because I didn't want to think about it not because I thought it was unlikely.

23. When I first heard the news reports I think I might have called his number but there was no answer on his number. I couldn't really contact anyone because I didn't know anybody to contact. I remember feeling bad later on when he hadn't been found later down the track that I hadn't been able to do anything.
24. I can't recall anyone that Ross knew, I have this recollection of my flat mate Anthony when I lived at an apartment after Bronte and I think maybe one of Anthony's friends knew Ross. I think he had dark hair but I can't recall anything else about him. I don't know his name but when Detective Tierney read out some names to me the name Paul does come to mind as possibly being his name. I think a couple of times we may have spoken about Ross. Anthony had curly hair and he may have been in my year 12 class in high school. I think Anthony is deceased now.
25. I recall after Ross went missing I spoke to a friend of a friend, possibly through my flat mate Alan and there was some discussion about Ross going missing and I then realised he knew some people in Sydney but I don't know who they were.
26. One of my friends at the time was Leigh PLEASANTS and I think he may have met Ross a few times. At the time he lived down the road from me, it was a place at the back of Randwick. Leigh and Alan were in a relationship up until Alan died. Leigh lives in Queensland now. I haven't spoken to Leigh since he started a relationship with an ex of mine, Damien WAPLING.
27. I was not aware of Ross's previous partners or partners after myself. I do recall that when we split up I thought Ross would move on quickly because there were other people he was interested in or he had other options.

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28. I was not aware of the police investigation I didn't hold up much hope that the police would properly investigate because of my general experience that police would try to avoid work and the fact that there was a lot of corruption in the police force.
29. I was aware there was an inquest into Ross's disappearance but I think this was from media reports after it. I thought I might have been asked to offer something at the inquest but I was never approached by police about Ross until now.
30. Detective Tierney showed me some photos and I can say the following:
- Photo 1: I recognise myself on the far left of this photo and the person next to my photograph in the water looks vaguely familiar but I can't place them.
- Photo 2: I can't recognise anyone
- Photo 3: I can't recognise anyone
- Photo 4: I can't recognise anyone
31. In regards to the first photograph I assume these are photos of people who were dear to Ross, it doesn't surprise me to know he had a photo of me he was a big softy at heart and a lovely person.
32. On the 20th of June two Detectives from the Homicide Squad came and spoke to me at my unit in Surry Hills. They asked me to come to make a statement. On Friday the 23rd June I met Detectives Tierney and Morgan at Surry Hills Police Station and made this statement. During this time Detective Tierney showed me some photographs, I signed these photographs to acknowledge they were shown to me during the statement.
33. I have a bit of dyslexia so I have trouble with the comprehension of the text so Detective Tierney read this statement out to me which I then signed.

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Photo 1



1413

23/6/17

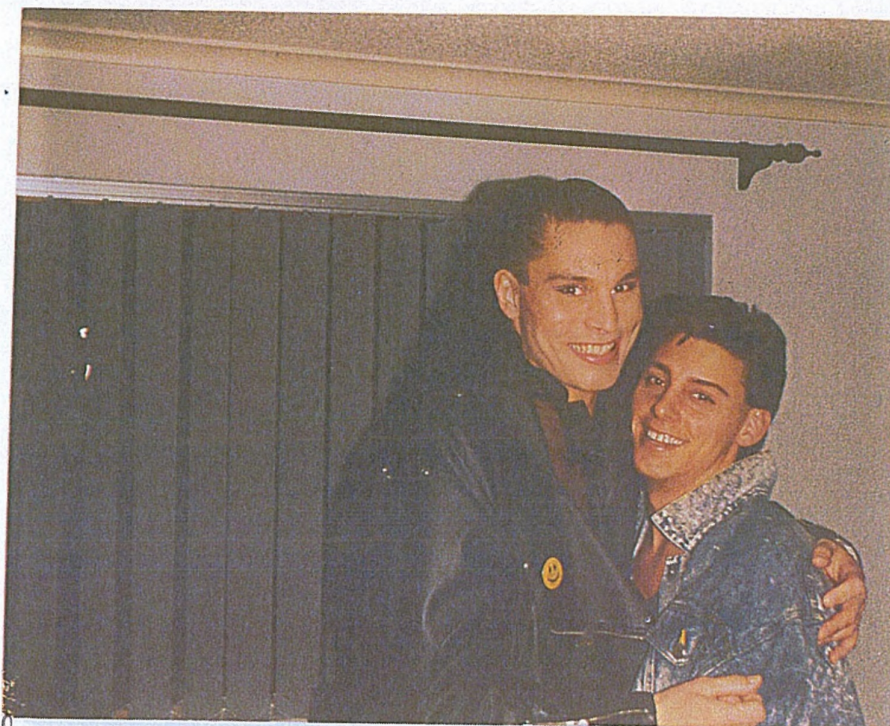
Photo 2.



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Photo 3



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Photo 4



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