



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

17 April 2023

Mr Patrick Hodgetts
 Senior Solicitor
 Office of the General Counsel, NSW Police Force
 Locked Bag 5102
 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Hodgetts,

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes: Fingerprint analysis – Ross Warren

As you are aware, I assist the Honourable Justice John Sackar in the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes (“the Inquiry”).

Fingerprint analysis: Ross Warren

The Inquiry seeks the assistance of the Forensic Evidence and Technical Services Command to conduct fingerprint examinations in relation to the disappearance and presumed death of Ross Warren (DOB: 26/10/1964).

Case details

In 1989, several items recovered from Mr Warren’s vehicle were submitted for fingerprints. In June 2002, Detective Senior Constable Damien Liddle examined these fingerprints and identified the majority of them as being Mr Warren’s fingerprints (see expert certificate of Detective Senior Constable Damien Liddle dated 5 June 2002, **enclosed**). As at 2002, the following fingerprints were not identified:

No.	Fingerprint case number	Identification label	Location	Identification status
1.	N-140143	W	Audio cassette case	Not identified
2.	N-718496	CAD 1	On rear of driver licence in name of Ross Bradley Warren	Not identified

In 2016, as part of Strike Force Neiwand, Detective Senior Constables Jon Oldfield and Katherine Tierney requested that the Major Crime Analysis Unit, Fingerprint Operations compare the outstanding fingerprints

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against two nominated suspects (see email correspondence **enclosed**). Detective Sergeant Fiona West advised the fingerprint comparisons did not produce a match to either suspect.

However, it appears that, following a further review of fingerprint case number N-718496, Graph CAD-1 (from the rear of Mr Warren’s driver licence) was fully identified to Mr Warren. The only outstanding fingerprint (N-140143, Graph W) was re-searched on the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (“NAFIS”) and not identified.

The Major Crime Reference Number is FS 89/681.

Request for examination and information

The Inquiry would be assisted by further information on the following matters:

1. Please outline the results of the re-resting of fingerprint case number N-718496, Graph CAD-1 in 2016.
2. Please re-search fingerprint FCN 140143, Graph W, on any relevant databases (including NAFIS) and provide the results of this examination.
3. Please conduct a comparative examination of fingerprint FCN 140143, Graph W against each of the persons of interest in the table below. If the result is inconclusive, please advise whether the person of interest’s fingerprints can be eliminated as a result of the comparative examination.

No.	Name	Aliases	Date of birth	CNI
1.	NP91	NP91 Alias NP91 Alias	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2.	NP251		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
3.	NP92	NP92 alias	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
4.	NP77		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
5.	NP107	NP107 Alias NP107 Alias NP107 Alias NP107 Alias	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
6.	NP98	NP98 Alias NP98 Alias NP98 Alias NP98 Alias	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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		NP98 Alias NP98 Alias NP98 Alias		
7.	NP104	NP104 Alias	██████████	██████████

I would be grateful if you could please provide the above in writing by close of business on **1 May 2023**. The information should be provided in the form of an evidentiary certificate capable of being tendered in evidence.

Thank you for your assistance.

Please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Blomfield on ██████████ if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

Yours faithfully,



Enzo Camporeale
 Director, Legal
Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry

Statement of Det LIDDLE - fingerprint evidence of WARREN

Product Type: TEXT DOCUMENTS:Statement

Completed Date: 5 Jun 2002

Brief Description: Attached to this product is a statement from Detective LIDDLE of the Fingerprint Operations Section, Forensic Services Group. He gives evidence he examined case numbers N900130, N140143 and N718496 which consists of a brown paper bag, Grace Brothers bag, audio cassette case, Jeans Movement bag, drivers license and Radio Rentals receipt. All fingerprints that were identified belong to WARREN.

Summary:

Para 3: Evidence offered that this witness is an expert in the Science of Fingerprints.

Para 4/5/6.: Examined fingerprint job sheets and photographs for job numbers 900130, N140143 and N718496 which are a brown paper bag, Grace Brothers bag, audio cassette case, Jeans Movement bag, drivers license and Radio Rentals receipt. Compared these fingerprints with inked impressions from Ross WARREN. States fingerprints developed are identical with those of Ross WARREN.

P.190.

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:
Death of Ross Bradley WARREN

Place: Fingerprint Operations Forensic Services
Group.

Date: 5 June 2002.

Name: Damien James LIDDLE

Tel No.: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] PARRAMATTA.

Occupation: Detective Senior Constable.

States:-

CERTIFICATE OF EXPERT EVIDENCE

Section 177, Evidence Act 1995 No.25

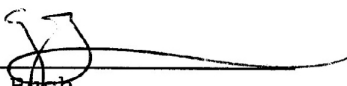
1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything, which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

2. I am 31 years of age.


3. I hereby certify I am a Fingerprint Expert. I have a specialist knowledge based on my training, study and experience as a Fingerprint Practitioner for the past 8 years. I hold the following qualifications. I hold a certificate of expertise in the Science of Fingerprints.

(SEE ANNEXURE A)

Witness:


G. Bush
Det Senior Constable
5 June 2002.

Signature:


D. J. Liddle.
Det Senior Constable
5 June 2002

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STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Ross Bradley WARREN

Name: Damien James LIDDLE

4. On the 4 June 2002 I retrieved photographs of fingerprints bearing case numbers **N-900130, N-140143** and **N-718496**. I also retrieved copies off the fingerprint job sheets for the three cases.


5. I carefully compared all the fingerprints appearing in the photographs bearing case numbers **N-900130, N-140143** and **N-718496** with the inked fingerprint impressions on the fingerprint form in the name Ross Bradley WARREN.

6. Based wholly or substantially on my specialised knowledge, I am of the opinion that some of the fingerprint impressions appearing in the photographs bearing case numbers **N-900130, N-140143** and **N-718496** are identical with the fingerprint impressions appearing on the fingerprint form bearing the name Ross Bradley WARREN.


(See Annexure B for all examination and identification details)

8. I hereby give notice under Section 66(C) 2 of the Justices Act that the proposed exhibits, which have been indicated in this Certificate, may be inspected at the Fingerprint Operations, Forensic Services Group, Level 8, The Ferguson Centre, 130 George Street Parramatta at a mutually agreeable time.

Witness:


 G. Bush
 Det Senior Constable
 5 June 2002.

Signature:


 D. J. Liddle.
 Det Senior Constable
 5 June 2002

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STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Ross Bradley WARREN

Name: Damien James LIDDLE

ANNEXURE 'A'

EXPERT QUALIFICATIONS IN THE SCIENCE OF FINGERPRINTS

Detective Senior Constable Damien James LIDDLE

I have been attached to the New South Wales Police Fingerprint Operations Branch, Forensic Services Group since October 1993. In that time I have gained extensive training, knowledge and practical experience in the science of fingerprints.

I successfully completed six months full time training by Senior Fingerprint Experts in the history, development, classification, and identification of fingerprints. Once completed I progressed to stage two of my training program, which consisted of four and a half years of rotational duties within the various fingerprint disciplines. I gained operational experience in latent fingerprint detection, development, comparison and identification, under the supervision and instruction of Senior Fingerprint Experts.

At the completion of my training I successfully completed a series of examinations set by the Australian Board of Fingerprint Examiners. On the 28 September 1999 I was awarded with a certificate of expertise in the fingerprint science.

* * *

In the Fingerprint Crime Scene Section I have attended, assessed and examined in excess of a thousand crime scenes, developing and photographically recording many thousands of fingerprints. I have examined many major crime scenes and exhibits where I used and became proficient in the use of highly sensitive physical and chemical development techniques.

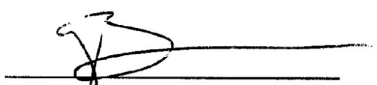
In the Latent Print and Tenprint Section I gained expertise in the classification, searching, and identification of latent and inked fingerprints. During my operational experience in both the Latent and Tenprint Sections I have positively identified many thousands of fingerprints, all of which were verified by Senior Fingerprint Experts.

In December 2001 I successfully completed my Diploma of Applied Science – Fingerprint Identification, through the Canberra Institute of Technology.

In May 2002 I successfully completed an advanced fingerprint identification workshop conducted by Pat Wertheim, a leading fingerprint expert in the United States of America.

I have given evidence in the Local and District court relating to the development and identification of fingerprints, and given assistance to the coroner through the identification of deceased persons. I have trained more junior members, and have lectured other police in the Fingerprint Science. I continue my education by reading books, journals, and articles detailing advancements in the fingerprint science. I am a current active member of the International Association for Identification.

Witness:


 G. Bush

Det Senior Constable
5 June 2002.

Signature:


 D. J. Liddle.

Det Senior Constable
5 June 2002

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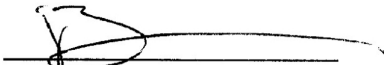
STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Ross Bradley WARREN

Name: Damien James LIDDLE


ANNEXURE B

Fingerprint Index Number N-900130		
Examined 24 August 1989		
IDENTIFICATION LABEL	LOCATION	IDENTIFICATION STATUS
GN1	On Brown paper bag	Identified as the right middle fingerprint impression of Ross Bradley WARREN
GN2	On paper Grace Brothers bag	Identified as the right middle fingerprint impression of Ross Bradley WARREN
GN3	On paper Grace Brothers bag	Identified as the left thumb impression of Ross Bradley WARREN
GN4	On paper Grace Brothers bag	Identified as the left thumb impression of Ross Bradley WARREN
GN5	On paper Grace Brothers bag	Identified as the left thumb impression of Ross Bradley WARREN
GN6	On paper Grace Brothers bag	Identified as the left middle and left index fingerprint impressions of Ross Bradley WARREN
GN7	On paper Grace Brothers bag	Identified as the right middle and right index fingerprint impressions of Ross Bradley WARREN

Witness:


 G. Bush
 Det Senior Constable
 5 June 2002.

Signature:


 D. J. Liddle.
 Det Senior Constable
 5 June 2002

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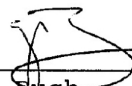
STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Ross Bradley WARREN

Name: Damien James LIDDLE

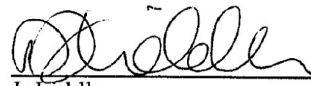
Fingerprint Case Number N-140143		
Examined 27 July 1989		
IDENTIFICATION LABEL	LOCATION	IDENTIFICATION STATUS
W	Audio cassette case	Not Identified
B	On plastic Bag (Jeans Movement)	Identified as the right thumb impression of Ross Bradley WARREN
B	On plastic Bag (Jeans Movement)	Identified as the left thumb impressions of Ross Bradley WARREN
B	On plastic Bag (Jeans Movement)	Identified as the left middle fingerprint impression of Ross Bradley WARREN

Fingerprint Case Number N-718496		
Examined 4 August 2001		
IDENTIFICATION LABEL	LOCATION	IDENTIFICATION STATUS
CAD 1	On rear of Drivers Licence in name of Ross Bradley WARREN	Not identified
CAD 2	On rear of Radio Rentals Receipt	Identified as the left middle fingerprint of Ross Bradley WARREN

Witness:


 G. Bush
 Det Senior Constable
 5 June 2002.

Signature:


 D. J. Liddle.
 Det Senior Constable
 5 June 2002

From: #FPMC/Staff/NSWPolice
 Sent by: Fiona West/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice
To: Jon Oldfield/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
Cc: Michael Chebl/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

Date: Monday, May 02, 2016 12:02PM
Subject: M/C 89/681 - Re: FS 89/2332 [DLM=Sensitive:Legal]

Hi Jon,

Re: M/C 89/681, Murder of Ross WARREN, S/F NEIWAND

I have compared nominated suspect [REDACTED] **I88 Alias 1** (aka **I88 Alias 2**), DOB [REDACTED], CNI [REDACTED] to the above job - Result: NOT IDENTIFIED.

Please Note: The only outstanding fingerprint graphs are FCN 140143 (Graph W) and FCN 718496 (Graph CAD1). FCN 90130 - Nil outstanding fingerprints.

Also, this matter is filed under Fingerprint Major Crime Folder 89/681 - not 89/2332.

If you require anything further please get in touch.

Regards,

Fiona West | Detective Sergeant | Team Leader | Major Crime Analysis Unit
 Fingerprint Operations | Identification Services Branch | Forensic Services Group
 NSW Police Force | Ph: [REDACTED] / EN [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]

-----Jon Oldfield/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice wrote: -----

To: #FPMC/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
 From: Jon Oldfield/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice
 Date: 04/14/2016 10:52AM
 Cc: Michael Chebl/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
 Subject: FS 89/2332 [DLM=Sensitive:Legal]

Greetings,

I am involved in SF: NEIWAND, which is the Unsolved Homicide Team led examination into the suspected murder of Ross WARREN in 1989. Items recovered from the motor vehicle of Ray Warren were submitted for fingerprints.

On 4 June 2002, fingerprints were examined by Det Snr Cst Damien LIDDLE. A majority of the fingerprints were identified as WARREN.

Fingerprint Case Number:
 N900130, N140143, N718496

Major Crime Reference Number:
 FS 89/2332

I note that fingerprints on the Audio Cassette Case and on the rear of Ross WARREN's Driver Licence were not identified.

I was interested in having these unidentified fingerprints re-examined?

In addition, a suspect has been identified and I was wondering if a comparison could be made with his fingerprints.

Suspect;

188 Alias 1
DOB - [REDACTED]
CNI - [REDACTED]

Regards,
Jon Oldfield
Detective Senior Constable
Unsolved Homicide Team
State Crime Command
W - [REDACTED]
EN - [REDACTED]
M - [REDACTED]

From: #FPMC/Staff/NSWPolice
 Sent by: Fiona West/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice
To: Katherine Tierney/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

Date: Thursday, November 24, 2016 09:36AM
Subject: Re: re: further fingerprint comparison M/C 89/681 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Katherine,

Re: M/C 89/681, FCN 718496 (O/S Graph CAD 1) & FCN 140143 (O/S Graph W)

As requested, nominated suspect [REDACTED] NP250, CNI [REDACTED] has been compared to the above fingerprint jobs - Result: NOT IDENTIFIED.

Also, please be advised that following a review of FCN 718496, the outstanding fingerprint Graph CAD1 has now been identified to the victim Ross WARREN, CNI [REDACTED]. Therefore FCN 718496 is now fully identified to the victim - nil outstanding fingerprints.

The only outstanding fingerprint for this job is FCN 140143, Graph W. This graph has been re-researched on the NAFIS (the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System) and NOT IDENTIFIED.

If you need anything further please contact this office.

Regards,

Fiona West | Detective Sergeant | Team Leader | Major Crime Analysis Unit
 Fingerprint Operations | Identification Services Branch | Forensic Services Group
 NSW Police Force | Ph: [REDACTED] / EN [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]

-----Katherine Tierney/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice wrote: -----

To: #FPMC/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
 From: Katherine Tierney/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice
 Date: 11/16/2016 12:35PM
 Subject: Re: re: further fingerprint comparison M/C 89/681 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Great, thank you

Katherine Tierney
 Detective Senior Constable
 Unsolved Homicide Team - Homicide Squad
 Ph: [REDACTED] (E) [REDACTED]
 Fax: [REDACTED] (E) [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

-----Fiona West/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice wrote: -----

To: Katherine Tierney/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice
 From: #FPMC/Staff/NSWPolice
 Sent by: Fiona West/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice
 Date: 16/11/2016 12:07PM
 Subject: Re: re: further fingerprint comparison M/C 89/681 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Katherine,

I will add the nominated POI **NP250**, CNI [REDACTED] to M/C 89/681 for comparison.

Once complete the result will be advised via email.

Regards,

Fiona West | Detective Sergeant | Team Leader | Major Crime Analysis Unit
Fingerprint Operations | Identification Services Branch | Forensic Services Group
NSW Police Force | Ph: [REDACTED] / EN [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED]

-----Katherine Tierney/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice wrote: -----

To: #FPMC/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

From: Katherine Tierney/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice

Date: 11/15/2016 11:20AM

Cc: Michael Chebl/[REDACTED]/Staff/NSWPolice@NSWPolice

Subject: re: further fingerprint comparison M/C 89/681 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Good morning,

I am investigating the murder of Ross Bradley WARREN in 1989 under SF NEIWAND. Back in April this year my colleague John OLDFIELD requested a fingerprint comparison for this case, I would like to request another for a different suspect please.

The matter is filed under Fingerprint Major Crime Folder 89/681. The outstanding fingerprint graphs are:

FCN 140143 (Graph W)

FCN 718496 (Graph CAD1)

Can you please compare the fingerprints of the following suspect against these graphs:

NP250

DOB: [REDACTED]

CNI: [REDACTED] (prints obtained 1981)

If you need any other information please let me know,

Thank you,

Katherine Tierney
Detective Senior Constable
Unsolved Homicide Team - Homicide Squad

Ph: [REDACTED] (E) [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED] (E) [REDACTED]