



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

25 August 2023

Ms Melanie Elizabeth Staples

By express post

Dear Ms Staples,

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes – Anthony Cawsey

I assist the Honourable Justice John Sackar (“the Commissioner”) in the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes (“the Inquiry”).

The Inquiry

On 13 April 2022 the Governor of NSW, by Letters Patent, issued a commission to the Commissioner to inquire into and report on historical LGBTIQ hate crimes. Specifically, the Letters Patent require the Commissioner to inquire into and report to the Governor and Premier on the following matters by 15 December 2023:

- A. The manner and cause of death in all cases that remain unsolved from the 88 deaths or suspected deaths of men potentially motivated by gay hate bias that were considered by Strike Force Parrabell; and
- B. The manner and cause of death in all unsolved suspected hate crime deaths in New South Wales that occurred between 1970 and 2010 where:
 - i. The victim was a member of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community; and
 - ii. The death was the subject of a previous investigation by the NSW Police Force.

Further information in relation to the background and conduct of the Inquiry can be found on the Inquiry’s website: www.specialcommission.nsw.gov.au.

Death of Anthony Cawsey

One of the matters the Commissioner is considering pursuant to category B of the Letters Patent is the death of Anthony Cawsey. Mr Cawsey died on 26 September 2009 at Centennial Parklands. The Inquiry understands that you were the officer in charge of the NSW Police Force (“NSWPF”) investigation into Mr Cawsey’s death.

