



Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

30 August 2023

Constable Ian Castle

By post

Dear Constable Castle,

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

I assist the Honourable Justice John Sackar 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 his Honour to inquire into and report on historical LGBTIQ hate crimes. Specifically, the Letters Patent require his Honour 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 Graham Paynter

One of the matters the Commissioner is considering pursuant to item A of the Letters Patent is the death of Graham Paynter. Mr Paynter died on 13 October 1989 at Tathra, NSW. The Inquiry understands that you were the officer in charge of the NSW Police Force (“NSWPF”) investigation into Mr Paynter’s death.

Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

Documentary tender

On 7 February 2023, the Inquiry conducted a public hearing in relation to the death of Mr Paynter. A bundle of documents was tendered into evidence in connection with the Inquiry's consideration of the matter. Those documents comprise Exhibit 8 and are publicly available at the following link: <https://www.specialcommission.nsw.gov.au/hearings/public-hearing-3-7-8-february-2023/>.

Counsel Assisting made both written and oral submissions in relation to Mr Paynter's death. Those submissions address, amongst other things, the steps taken during the initial NSWPF investigation. A copy of Counsel Assisting's written submissions is **enclosed** and can also be found on the Inquiry's website.

On 21 February 2023, the Inquiry received written submissions on behalf of the Commissioner of the NSWPF in connection with the death of Mr Paynter. For ease of reference, a copy of those submissions is also **enclosed** and publicly available on the Inquiry's website.

Submissions

The NSWPF have advised the Inquiry they do not act for *any* of the officers in charge of investigations that are being considered by the Inquiry pursuant to Items A and B of the Letters Patent.

The *Special Commissions of Inquiry Act 1983* (NSW) ("*SCOI Act*") allows for a person who is substantially and directly interested in any subject-matter of the Inquiry to seek authorisation from the Commissioner to appear before the Inquiry, represented by counsel or a solicitor (see s. 12 of the *SCOI Act*).

Accordingly, if you wish to make written submissions beyond those made by the NSWPF in respect of the death of Mr Paynter, please provide these to the Inquiry by no later than **4:00pm on Friday, 15 September 2023**. I note that you are not required to make written submissions or participate in the Inquiry if you do not wish to do so. If the Inquiry does not receive any contact from you by 8 September 2023, the Commissioner may proceed on the basis that you do not wish to be heard in relation to the death of Mr Paynter.

If you have any queries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Francesca Lilly at [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,



Enzo Camporeale

Director, Legal

Solicitor Assisting the Inquiry

Encl. (2)