



## Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes

### Statement of Garry Hook

30 May 2023

This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that I would be prepared, if necessary, to give to the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

#### Background

1. My name is Garry David Hook.
2. I am 57 years old. My address is known to the Special Commission of Inquiry.
3. I am currently retired.

#### My relationship with Crispin Dye

4. At the time of his death, I had known Crispin Dye (**Crispin**) for anywhere between five to nine years. I was introduced to Crispin by Colin Copnell (**Colin C**) in the mid-late 1980s. Colin C was my partner at the time that I met Crispin. Crispin and I became friends around this time.
5. Crispin was a lovely person. He was very easy to get along with. I remained friends with him until his death. I would socialise with Crispin when he visited Sydney, along with Steven Hodges (**Steven**), who has been my partner since 1991.

#### Events in late December 1993

6. In late December 1993, Steven and I met Crispin for drinks at the Oxford Hotel in Darlinghurst. Crispin had travelled down to Sydney from Cairns for Christmas and had arranged to house-sit for another friend of ours, Colin Dorrington (**Colin D**), whilst Colin D and his partner were on holiday in Hawaii. I assume that these drinks were to celebrate Christmas and to catch up with Crispin while he was in Sydney. I recall Crispin giving us a copy of his solo album which he had recently released whilst we were out for drinks.
7. I cannot recall the exact date that Steven and I met with Crispin for drinks. I think that it may have been up to a week or at least several days before Crispin was assaulted. Typically, Steven and I would meet with Crispin on a weekend at a pub in Paddington or Woollahra, at someone's house, or perhaps occasionally at Taylor Square. However, because it was the week before Christmas,

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we may have met with Crispin on a weekday because we may have had days off work at that time. I do recall that we spent Christmas Day in 1993 in Urunga, as Steven's parents live there so it is likely that we left Sydney at least two days before Christmas to be there on Christmas Day; it was an 8-hour journey by car back then.

8. The Oxford Hotel was not a bar where I would often go for a beer, however, Steven and I had met Crispin there on other occasions. There was one floor of the Oxford Hotel that was what was known as a "leather bar", but upstairs there was a cocktail lounge, which is where Steven, Crispin and I had drinks. I don't know if Crispin went to the Oxford Hotel frequently. I am aware that before he moved to Cairns, we would often have lunch at the Paddington Hotel in Paddington or the Woollahra Hotel.
9. Regardless of the day that we met up with Crispin, we would have met with him for drinks in the late afternoon or early evening. It is most likely that the drinks would have had a late afternoon commencement and an early evening conclusion. I suspect that the upstairs cocktail bar at the Oxford Hotel would not have been open earlier than this.
10. I have been made aware by the Inquiry's staff that a yellow "post-it note" containing my name and phone number was found in the pocket of the shirt that Crispin was wearing on the night that he was assaulted. Steven and I viewed this note on 23 March 2023 via a Microsoft Teams conference with Inquiry staff.
11. I do not recall giving Crispin my phone number. However, I believe I recognise the handwriting. I am quite certain that this is Colin C's handwriting. It would make sense for Colin C to have given the note to Crispin prior to Crispin travelling to Sydney from Cairns in order for him to arrange for us to meet up. This is because from around mid-1991, Steven and I were living in Kingsford, Sydney, in a house that belonged to my great aunt who resided in a nursing home. Steven and I lived in that house to ensure it was maintained properly. After my great aunt passed away in February 1993, Steven and I moved to an address in Earlwood. Colin C would likely have been aware that Steven and I had moved houses and changed phone numbers.
12. I cannot explain why the note with my name and telephone number on it was in Crispin's pocket on the night that he was assaulted. Steven and I may have been with him on that night, although we would not have stayed out late given that we would have had a long drive in the following days. However, it was never my belief that Steven and I were with Crispin on the night that he was assaulted. I recall receiving a call on or shortly after Christmas Day where Steven and I were told that Crispin had passed away.

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The Oxford Street area in 1993

13. I remember many of the gay bars in Sydney around the Oxford Street area in 1993, but I did not go to them regularly. I am familiar with some of the venues that Crispin attended on the night that he was attacked. Gilligan's Bar and the Flinders Hotel were gay bars. The Paddington Inn, Woollahra Hotel and the Bellevue Hotel were not, to my knowledge, gay bars.
14. The Courthouse Hotel was not part of the gay scene. If a softer or more "feminine-acting" gay person went to the Courthouse, they probably would not feel comfortable.

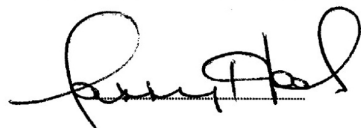
Crispin's sexuality

15. I always felt and believed that Crispin was either gay or bisexual, but he was not "out" in the way that Steven, Colin C, Colin D and I were. I don't know whether it was because he struggled to come out, because it was 1993 and attitudes were different. I'm fairly sure that Crispin was not "out" in terms of his work in the music industry. I was aware that Crispin had at least one relationship with a woman.
16. I was told by Colin D, Colin C, or in a group conversation that Crispin told his mother that he was gay during his trip to Sydney in December 1993. I also remember seeing him in venues that were gay-oriented.
17. I would say that Crispin was "straight-acting" and as far as I know, he was not part of the "gay scene" that was based around Oxford Street.

Events after Crispin's death

18. I was not contacted by the NSW Police Force (**NSWPF**) following Crispin's death. I did not contact the NSWPF as I did not think I would be of assistance. I believed that if the NSWPF wanted information, they would have contacted me or Steven.
19. I had not seen and at no time was I made aware of the yellow post-it note with my name and number on it until 23 March 2023 when it was shown to me by Inquiry staff.

Signature:



Name:

Garry Hook.

Date:

30 May, 2023