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**Statement of Senior Crime Scene Officer Kate REID**  
**In the matter of the homicide of Ernest HEAD - Forensic Case Number 76/4365**

*NSW Police Force*  
**EXPERT CERTIFICATE**  
*Section 177, Evidence Act 1995 No. 25*

<b>In the matter of:</b>	<b>Homicide of Ernest HEAD</b>
	<b>Forensic Case Numbers 76/4365</b>
<b>Place Statement Made:</b>	Fingerprint Operations, Police Headquarters, Parramatta
<b>Date:</b>	18 October 2023

<b>Name:</b>	Kate Louise REID
<b>Work Address:</b>	Fingerprint Operations – Police Headquarters, Parramatta
<b>Work Telephone:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Occupation:</b>	Senior Crime Scene Officer – Fingerprint Expert

**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 willfully stated in it anything that I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
2. I make the following declarations:
  - I have read the Expert Witness Code of Conduct in Schedule 7 of the NSW Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 2005 and I agree to be bound by the Code.
  - I have made all inquiries that I believe desirable and appropriate, and to the best of my knowledge, no matter of significance that I regard as relevant has been withheld from the court.
3. I hereby certify I am a Fingerprint Expert. I have specialised knowledge based on my training, experience and study of fingerprints since 2006. Refer to Annexure 1 for a summary of my qualifications and experience.
4. For a glossary of terms used in this certificate see Annexure 2.
5. On 12 October 2023, I received a written request to the A/Director of the Crime Disruption and Special Inquiries Law, Office of the General Counsel, NSW Police Force from Enzo CAMPOREALE, Crown Solicitor,

Witness:

[REDACTED]

Ian Rowney  
Chief Inspector  
18 October 2023

Signature:

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requesting clarification in relation to the death of Ernest Head, to assist the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes. This letter was dated 11 October 2023.

6. On 30 May 2023, 20 June 2023 and 19 September 2023, I provided an Expert Certificate in relation to a fingerprint review on NSWPF Forensic Case Number 76/4365 in the matter of the death of Ernest HEAD. This statement is prepared to address requests for additional information in the written request from the Crown Solicitor.

#### **V11 MATCHER**

7. The Expert Certificates dated 20 June 2023 and 19 September 2023 refer to the upgrade of the V11 matcher for the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS). The letter from Crown Solicitor Enzo CAMPOREALE requested further information in relation to the development of the V11 matcher technology, when it became available to Australian and international jurisdictions and the adoption of this technology by NSWPF.
8. NAFIS is an Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) system provided through the vendor IDEMIA. It is one national system used by all law enforcement agencies in Australia. On Monday 17 October 2023, information in regard to the V11 matcher was requested from the ACIC. The following information was provided via Mr Brenton SEARLE, Director of the National Policing Information Capabilities Hub, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission.

#### **V11 MATCHER DEVELOPMENT**

9. The vendor IDEMIA was formerly known as Morpho. It is not known when Morpho developed the V11 technology. This is proprietary information. It was used in a Morpho Technology Benchmark in 2013 to compare the accuracy between the existing V10 and V11 algorithms. In the test environment, the V11 matcher displayed a 17.9% improvement for accuracy over the V10 matcher for latent palm searching. Morpho provided a 'Capacity Extension and Enhancement Proposal' to CrimTrac, which included the V11 upgrade in November 2013. CrimTrac merged with the Australian Crime Commission in 2016 to form the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission.

#### **AVAILABILITY OF V11 MATCHER TO AUSTRALIAN AND INTERNATIONAL JURISDICTIONS**

10. The V11 algorithm was deployed as part of a broader NAFIS Capacity Extension Project which was delivered on 30 April 2015. No information was provided in relation to the availability of a V11 matcher to international jurisdictions.

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**ADOPTION OF THE V11 MATCHER TECHNOLOGY BY NSWPF**

11. NAFIS is a national capability, and the Capacity Upgrade Project delivered all components including the upgrade to the V11 matchers to all states and territories on 30 April 2015. There was no option for any state to 'opt out' or retain previous versions of NAFIS.
12. Fingerprint Operations, NSW Police Force is accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) as meeting the requirement specified by the Australian and International Standard (AS ISO/IEC 17025) for the competence of forensic laboratories (NATA Accreditation Number 15184). Accreditation requires adherence to an approved quality assurance system and participation in an external proficiency testing program.
13. I hereby give notice under the Criminal Procedure Act 1986, that the proposed exhibits, which have been indicated in this Certificate, may be inspected at Fingerprint Operations, Forensic Evidence and Technical Services Command, NSW Police Headquarters, Level 4B, 1 Charles Street, Parramatta at a mutually agreeable time.

Witness:

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**ANNEXURE 1**

EXPERT QUALIFICATIONS IN THE SCIENCE OF FINGERPRINTS

Senior Crime Scene Officer Kate Louise REID

I have been attached to New South Wales Police Force Fingerprint Operations, Forensic Services Group since February 2009. Between September 2006 and February 2009, I performed duties as a Scene of Crime Officer at the Blue Mountains Local Area Command. During this time, I have acquired extensive training, knowledge and practical experience in the Science of Fingerprints.

My relevant qualifications include:

- *Certificate of Expertise in the Science of Fingerprints* issued and accredited by the Australasian Forensic Field Sciences Accreditation Board (AFFSAB); now known as the Australasian Forensic Science Assessment Body (AFSAB)
- *Bachelor of Science (Forensic Science)*, from the University of Western Sydney
- *Vocational Graduate Certificate of Public Safety (Forensic Investigation)*, from the Canberra Institute of Technology
- *Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Forensic Investigation)*, from the Canberra Institute of Technology
- *Diploma of Public Safety (Forensic Investigation)*, from the Canberra Institute of Technology
- *Certificate IV in Crime Scene Examination*, from the Canberra Institute of Technology
- *Certificate of Completion, Advanced Chemical Enhancement and Detection Techniques*, New South Wales Forensic Services Group; Training and Development Services.
- *Certificate of Completion, Ridgeology Comparison Techniques Course*, New South Wales Forensic Services Group; Training and Development Services.
- *Certificate of Completion, Palm Print Comparison Techniques Course*, New South Wales Police Forensic Services Group; Training and Development
- *Certificate of Completion, Digital Crime Scene Photography Course*, New South Wales Forensic Services Group, Training and Development
- *Certificate of Completion, Fingerprint Induction Program*, facilitated by the New South Wales Police

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I have also gained extensive practical experience in the Science of Fingerprints while performing duties within Fingerprint Operation, where I have:

- Classified, searched, compared and identified latent finger and palm print impressions developed at crime scenes. I have also passed an annual latent print identification proficiency test in accordance with the standards set by the National Association of Testing Authorities of Australia (NATA);
- Classified, searched, compared and identified inked and livescan finger and palm print impressions on fingerprint ten print forms, utilising both computerised and manual classification systems;
- Examined and managed crime scenes, including many of a very serious and complex nature, and have developed numerous finger and palm print impressions that have been identified.
- Examined deceased persons to obtain finger and palm print impressions for the purposes of identification;

I have additional practical experience from performing duties at the Pemulwuy Laboratories (responsible for the specialised laboratory examinations of evidence for fingerprints using special chemical development and enhancement techniques) where I examined items of evidence and developed finger and palm print impressions that have been identified.

At the completion of my training, I successfully completed various written and oral examination set by the Australasian Forensic Field Sciences Accreditation Board (AFFSAB). I was certified by this panel and issued a Certificate of Expertise in the Science of Fingerprints recognising this achievement.

On numerous occasions I have lectured and trained colleagues in various aspects of the science of fingerprints. Furthermore, I have read and studied many books and manuals pertaining to the science of fingerprints, and I maintain an informed knowledge of current issues and new developments within the fingerprint science by reading articles and journals concerned with the field of forensic fingerprint identification.

I have attended NSW Police Force Fingerprint Expert Conferences in 2015 held at HMAS Penguin, in 2017 held at Holsworthy Army Barracks and in 2019 and 2022 held at the Mantra Hotel, Parramatta.

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**ANNEXURE 2**

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Crime Scene Officer** – An examination officer who collects forensic evidence at complex (major) crime scenes and may also be qualified to conduct fingerprint comparisons. The minimum qualification for a Crime Scene Officer is completion of the Forensic Investigator 1 Course (or equivalent) facilitated by NSW Police Force, Forensic Evidence and Technical Services Command.

**Fingerprint** – The intricate design of the friction ridge skin found on the underside of the fingers, palm, toes or feet. The word fingerprint is also a generic term used to describe all impressions of friction ridge skin.

**Graph** – A label used for recording purposes to indicate the location of fingerprint evidence developed at crime scenes or on evidence examined in a laboratory. F1 is the first fingerprint developed during the examination; F2 is the second fingerprint developed during the examination, etc.

**Latent fingerprint** – The impression left on a surface when contact is made with a fingerprint. Latent fingerprints are normally invisible and are mainly comprised of the residue on the skin, which may include natural perspiration and/or contaminants from other sources (e.g. moisturiser or food residue). Various development techniques are then applied (e.g. fingerprint powder or chemicals) to the fingerprint in order to make it visible.

**NAFIS** – The National Automated Fingerprint Identification System. This is a computerised database of fingerprint records that is used to search and store both record and latent fingerprints. Although NAFIS is a useful tool in searching latent fingerprints, it does not establish a fingerprint identification – this function is performed by a fingerprint expert.

**NATA** – National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) is recognised by the Commonwealth government as the sole national accreditation body for establishing and maintaining competent laboratory practice

**Record Fingerprint** – A set of fingerprint impressions collected directly from a person for the purpose of identification. In most circumstances this is comprised of an impression from each of the ten fingers and an impression of each palm. These impressions are most commonly recorded on a 'Livescan' electronic fingerprint device, however, can also be recorded using ink and paper.

**Scene of Crime Officer** – An examination officer who collects forensic evidence at non-complex (volume) crime scenes. The minimum qualification for a Scene of Crime Scene Officer is completion of the Forensic Investigator 1 Course (or equivalent) facilitated by NSW Police Force, Forensic Evidence and Technical Services Command.

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