2022 Special Commission of Inquiry

into LGBTIQ hate crimes

Before: The Commissioner, the Honorable Justice John Sackar

At Level 2, 121 Macquarie Street, Sydney, New South Wales

On Monday, 21 November 2022 at 10.00am

(Day 4)

Counsel Assisting:

Mr Peter Gray SC (Senior Counsel Assisting) Ms Christine Melis (Counsel Assisting) Mr Bill de Mars (Counsel Assisting) Ms Kathleen Heath (Counsel Assisting) Ms Gráinne Marsden (Counsel Assisting) Ms Meg O'Brien (Counsel Assisting) Ms Claire Palmer (Counsel Assisting) Mr Enzo Camporeale (Director Legal) Ms Kate Lockery (Principal Solicitor)

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1 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

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3 Commissioner, this is the first of the public MR GRAY: 4 hearings of the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ 5 hate crimes. The special commission is inquiring into 6 deaths suspected of being LGBTIQ hate crimes in the 40-year 7 period between 1970 and 2010. It is important for the 8 Special Commission to have an appreciation of the 9 prevailing realities and attitudes of the time and how 10 various LGBTIQ community groups and advocates, and the police, responded in different and changing ways to the 11 12 prejudice and violence that was occurring.

14 It is anticipated that the evidence of the witnesses to be called this week will assist the Special Commission 15 16 to increase its understanding of, firstly, the social, 17 legal and cultural factors affecting the LGBTIQ community in the 40-year period in question, including the 18 19 decriminalisation of homosexual conduct in this State in 20 1984, the AIDS epidemic and the upsurge in violence, 21 particularly in the 1980s and 1990s. Secondly, the levels 22 of violence perpetrated against the LGBTIQ community in that period at beats, in private homes and elsewhere, both 23 24 as shown by the personal experiences of some of the 25 witnesses, and also as documented in empirical data 26 compiled in relation to that period. 27

Thirdly, changes in the relationship between the LGBTIQ community and the New South Wales Police and the changing nature of police responses to anti-LGBTIQ violence over that 40-year period. And, fourthly, the advocacy and campaigns on behalf of the LGBTIQ community in that period, including some of the hallmark changes to laws affecting the community.

36 The Special Commission will hear this week from the 37 following witnesses: Garry Wotherspoon, a historian, activist and author of several books, including Gay Sydney; 38 Brent Mackie, the director of policy, strategy and research 39 40 and ACON; Ulo Klemmer, a beat outreach worker with ACON 41 from 1989 to the mid-1990s; Les Peterkin, a gay man whose life experiences include both Sydney and country New South 42 43 Wales, from the 1950s to the present; Barry Charles, an 44 activist for the gay rights and gay liberation movement and 45 co-convenor of the Gay Rights Lobby in the early 1980s; 46 Gary Cox, a founding member of the committee of the AIDS Council of New South Wales, which is now ACON, in 1984, 47

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1 co-convener of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby in 1988 and 2 1989, and author of the Streetwatch studies into violence 3 against lesbians and gay men in the early 1980s and early 4 1990s; Bruce Grant, co-convenor of the Gay and Lesbian 5 Rights Lobby from 1989 to 1991 and coordinator of the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project from 1991 to 1999; 6 7 Carole Ruthchild, co-convener of the Gay and Lesbian Rights 8 Lobby from 1989 to 1992 and contributor to the "Off Our 9 Backs" report into anti-lesbian violence in the early 10 1990s; Greg Callaghan, a journalist with the Sydney Morning Herald, author of the book "Bondi Badlands" and host of the 11 podcast of the same name; and Dr Eloise Brook, health and 12 communications manager at The Gender Centre, editor of 13 Polare, a magazine for the transgender and gender-diverse 14 community, and presenter of the podcast "Counting the Dead: 15 16 an investigation of homicides against transgender people."

18 Commissioner, there are two tender bundles which I 19 seek to have received into evidence. The first is a bundle 20 comprising the four reports which are referred to 21 specifically in the terms of reference. That is to say, 22 the ACON report entitled, "In Pursuit of Truth and Justice" published on 26 May 2018; the final report of 23 Strike Force Parrabell, published in June 2018; the interim 24 25 report of the Parliamentary Committee, published in February 2019; and the final report of the Parliamentary 26 Committee, published in May 2021. These four reports will 27 28 be relevant to all the hearings which the Inquiry will 29 conduct. So I tender that bundle, comprising those four reports, and subject to your view, Commissioner, perhaps it 30 31 might be marked exhibit 1.

33 THE COMMISSIONER: I will mark it exhibit 1. Just before 34 you continue, Mr Mykkeltvedt, I observe you are here. I am sorry that I didn't call upon you earlier. As a result of 35 36 some applications made by or an application made by the New South Wales Police, I should note for the record that I 37 have granted yourself and, in due course, Mr Tedeschi, who, 38 I gather, will lead you on some occasions to appear? 39

41 MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes, that's correct.

THE COMMISSIONER: While you are on your feet, I take it
there are no objection to the reports and other matters
which Mr Gray has recently referred to?

47 MR MYKKELTVEDT: There's no objection.

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1 2 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much. Thanks, Mr Gray. 3 4 MR GRAY: If they might be marked exhibit 1. 5 <EXHIBIT #1 BUNDLE COMPRISING FOUR REPORTS, THE ACON REPORT 6 PUBLISHED ON 26 MAY 2018, THE FINAL REPORT OF 7 8 STRIKE FORCE PARRABELL PUBLISHED IN JUNE 2018, THE INTERIM 9 REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2019, AND THE FINAL REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY 10 COMMITTEE PUBLISHED IN MAY 2021 11 12 THE COMMISSIONER: 13 Thank you. 14 15 MR GRAY: Thank you, Commissioner. Secondly, I tender 16 five volumes comprising the tender bundle for this hearing. 17 This tender bundle contains 11 witness statements - and I will come back to that in a moment - as well as various 18 19 relevant publications, including academic articles and 20 media reports, spanning the period from 1970 to 2022. The 21 material in this tender bundle is directly relevant to the 22 present hearing and also to the work of the Inquiry 23 generally. 24 25 Commissioner, in the case of one of the statements, a 26 statement by former Police Officer Stephen McCann, the police have an application to make in connection with the 27 28 two annexures to that statement; certain redactions were 29 sought last week, and while it had been thought that an agreement had been reached as to what would be done about 30 31 those proposed redactions, Mr Mykkeltvedt has an 32 application this morning? 33 34 MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes, your Honour. I refer to documents 35 136 and 137 in your Honour's bundle. 36 THE COMMISSIONER: Which bundle? 37 38 MR MYKKELTVEDT: That is the second of the bundles that 39 40 has been referred to. 41 42 THE COMMISSIONER: Which volume, though? Yes. Can you tell me? 43 44 45 MR MYKKELTVEDT: I don't have the documents in the same 46 form as your Honour does, but I understand it is volume 5. 47

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1 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. 2 3 MR MYKKELTVEDT: I am indebted to my learned friends. 4 5 THE COMMISSIONER: You said 136, 137? Yes. 6 MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes. 7 Those documents comprise two 8 letters, a letter from Stephen McCann to the Commander of 9 the Modus Operandi Section, dated 10 August 1991, and a 10 letter from Stephen McCann to Chief Superintendent Norm 11 Maroney, dated 15 April 1991. 12 13 On the weekend, at 6.00 pm, correspondence was 14 received by my instructing solicitors seeking an agreed position in respect of some redactions and requiring a 15 16 response by 5.00 pm yesterday. In the limited time 17 available, some instructions were able to be sought and the position was put. Of course, those instructions were only 18 19 able to be sought from one officer. The position has been 20 reconsidered and, in essence, the Commissioner now seeks 21 some additional time to consider the position. 22 23 The reason for that is that the questions around the 24 potential impact of the tender of materials such as this on 25 future investigations are complex. As your Honour has heard, future investigations may be impacted upon by the 26 27 mere passage of time. Relationships can change, 28 technological advances can occur and personal circumstances 29 can alter. 30 31 The mere fact that particular information may have 32 been published at some time, for example, in the context of 33 an inquest, does not mean that republication of that 34 information can have no impact on further investigations that might occur in the future. 35 36 37 In particular, that's the case where we are confronted with a situation such as the present inquiry, where a 38 further publication essentially carries with it the 39 40 imprimatur of this inquiry, and, in those circumstances, it 41 is simply the case the Commissioner would seek some 42 additional time to consider whether in fact an application 43 should be brought in respect of that material, of course, 44 supported by appropriate evidence. 45 46 THE COMMISSIONER: How much time are you suggesting? 47

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1 MR MYKKELTVEDT: Two days, your Honour.

THE COMMISSIONER: I am not giving you two days,
Mr Mykkeltvedt. As I understand it, and your evidence will
no doubt direct itself to this issue, the two documents,
first of all, are dated 1991 each.

8 MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes.

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10 THE COMMISSIONER: As I understand it, and I certainly 11 stand to be corrected, they were both exhibited to an 12 affidavit of a then-serving police officer, Mr Page, and they were annexures, if I am not mistaken, 52, or 53 or 54 13 They were tendered before the of his statement dated 2002. 14 Coroner and they were tendered without any objection by 15 16 your clients, as then represented, by counsel.

18 I take it you, and those instructing you, will have 19 read Johns in the High Court and will have read the 20 question of whether something is in the public domain. As 21 far as I am aware - and your evidence may show something to 22 the contrary of this - these documents were made publicly 23 available. The mere fact that they were, or perhaps have not been looked at for some years, doesn't mean they are 24 25 not, and at all relevant times after 2002 or 2004 or 2005, whenever they were tendered before Coroner Milledge, have 26 27 been forever and a day since that point in the public 28 domain and accessible for anyone academic or anybody else 29 who may have gone to have a look at it. I will give you until tomorrow, but in the circumstances - and 10 o'clock 30 31 tomorrow morning.

33 MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes, your Honour.

THE COMMISSIONER: In the circumstances, I must confess I 35 36 find both the attitude adopted by your clients, given the 37 very extensive efforts we have made to try to accommodate both sides and, quite frankly, I'd like to know tomorrow 38 39 morning precisely what your position is, and I'll rule on 40 it. But at the moment, unless there is some other 41 argument - and if I may invite you and those instructing you to deal with the authorities that are relevant and 42 43 precisely the basis upon which you say I should do whatever 44 you now ask me to do. And what you are now going to ask me 45 to do, I'd like by 5 o'clock this afternoon, in a letter 46 from your side, if it is any different materially from what I understood the position was to be over the weekend. 47

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1 Notwithstanding that some of us do work on weekends, 2 Mr Mykkeltvedt, I am sorry to announce. If it is a 3 different position to that which I thought was arrived at, 4 tell me or Mr Camporeale by 5 o'clock this afternoon, or 5 Ms Lockery, whichever, precisely what the basis is and precisely what additional retractions or redactions you 6 7 require, and then you can address me tomorrow morning if 8 there is to be any outstanding issue. 9 10 MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes, your Honour. 11 THE COMMISSIONER: 12 All right. Thank you. 13 Commissioner, with that reservation, perhaps, 14 MR GRAY: 15 for the time being in relation to Mr McCann's statement, 16 which, I think, is at tab 11 of the first volume of this 17 tender bundle. I would ask that that tender bundle in its 18 entirety would perhaps be Exhibit 2. 19 20 THE COMMISSIONER: All right. I will mark it Exhibit 2 21 and I will note for moment that I have not included 22 annexures or references 136 and 137 for the moment in their 23 entirety as part of Exhibit 1, and I will deal with that 24 tomorrow morning. 25 <EXHIBIT #2 FIVE VOLUMES COMPRISING THE TENDER BUNDLE FOR</pre> 26 THIS HEARING, INCLUDING 11 WITNESS STATEMENTS AND RELEVANT 27 28 PUBLICATIONS FROM 1970 TO 2022 29 Thank you, your Honour. 30 MR GRAY: 31 32 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. 33 MR GRAY: The third matter for tender is that I would 34 formally tender three books. The first is a book called 35 "Gay Sydney" by Garry Wotherspoon, published in 2016; the 36 second is a book called "Bondi Badlands" by Greg Callaghan 37 published in 2007; and the third is a book called "Getting 38 Away With Murder" by Duncan McNab, published in 2017. 39 So I 40 wonder if they might perhaps become exhibits 3, 4 and 5. 41 42 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Thank you. I mark those exhibits 3, 4 and 5. 43 44 45 <EXHIBIT #3 THE BOOK "GAY SYDNEY" BY GARRY WOTHERSPOON,</pre> 46 **PUBLISHED IN 2016** 47

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<EXHIBIT #4 THE BOOK "BONDI BADLANDS" BY GREG CALLAGHAN, 1 **PUBLISHED IN 2007** 2 3 4 <EXHIBIT #5 THE BOOK "GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER" BY DUNCAN 5 MCNABB, PUBLISHED IN 2017 6 7 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Mykkeltvedt, I won't keep asking 8 you, but if there is any problem from your point of view, 9 please let me know. 10 MR MYKKELTVEDT: 11 Thank you. 12 THE COMMISSIONER: 13 Yes? 14 Commissioner, the list of anticipated witnesses 15 MR GRAY: 16 for this hearing has been posted on the Inquiry's website. The first witness will be Mr Garry Wotherspoon. 17 I will take Mr Wotherspoon's evidence this morning and thereafter 18 19 my colleagues Ms Melis and Ms Heath, who are at the bar 20 table this morning, and Mr de Mars, will adduce the 21 evidence of the other witnesses. So I call Garry 22 Wotherspoon. 23 24 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Is Mr Wotherspoon in court Do we know? 25 or is he outside? 26 27 Mr Wotherspoon, would you just kindly make your way up 28 to the witness box and then we will deal with the 29 formalities and while you are getting there, may I ask you do you wish to take an oath or an affirmation. 30 31 32 <GARRY WOTHERSPOON, affirmed: 33 34 MR GRAY: Mr Wotherspoon, your name is Garry Q. Wotherspoon, I believe? 35 36 Α. Yes. 37 You have provided the Inquiry with a statement, dated 38 Q. 14 November 2022, which you have signed? 39 40 Α. Yes. 41 You are a writer and a historian and a former academic 42 Q. 43 of the University of Sydney; is that right? 44 Α. Yes, correct. 45 46 In the mid 1990s, you were a co-director of the Q. Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research at the 47

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University of Sydney? 1 2 Α. Yes. 3 4 Q. And the focus of your research and writing has been, 5 generally speaking, the City of Sydney itself and its people and their lives; is that right? 6 7 Α. That's right, yes. 8 9 Q. In 2001, you were awarded the Centenary of Federation 10 Medal for your work as an academic researcher and human rights activist? 11 Yes. 12 Α. 13 14 Q. And if I may trespass upon your personal life to this 15 effect, I think you were born in about 1940? 16 Α. Yes. 17 And so from early adulthood, let's say the age of 20. 18 Q. 19 or thereabouts, you have been living as a gay man in 20 Sydney? 21 Α. Yes. 22 In addition to that, you have, in your professional 23 Q. 24 life as an academic and historian, researched and acquired 25 information on, and written about many aspects of gay life in Sydney, New South Wales, indeed, not only in your own 26 27 lifetime but in earlier times? 28 Historical, yes. Α. Yes. 29 I don't know if anyone is having this difficulty, but 30 Q. 31 I wonder if you could just speak up a little bit. Thank 32 you, Mr Wotherspoon. 33 Α. Yes. Is that better? 34 Your statement lists a number of books 35 Q. Thank you. 36 that you have written and some of your other writings. You were born, I was unkind enough to ask you, in 1940, and you 37 were born in Waverley and grew up in Maroubra? 38 In Maroubra in Sydney, yes. 39 Α. 40 41 Q. By the time you reached your teenage years or perhaps the mid or later part of your teenage years, did you begin 42 to realise that your romantic or erotic impulses were for 43 44 men rather than women? 45 Α. Certainly probably by my mid-teens I knew, but 46 certainly by my late teens I was willing to explore and find out what that meant. 47

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1 2 At that time, which in your case was the mid- to Q. 3 late-1950s, how was that done? What was that like for you 4 to begin that exploratory process in Sydney at that time? 5 It was very difficult. Homosexuality amongst males at Α. the time was illegal, and social attitudes being what they 6 7 were, they also reflected a general condemnation of us. So 8 one had to be very discreet, very cautious, about one 9 exploring the possibilities of having an emotional - a 10 sexual life. 11 12 Q. And being cautious and discreet involved an element. did it, of secrecy or surreptitiousness? 13 14 Α. Very much so. The gay world is very different. Most straight people have time to meet others at church socials 15 16 or the pub or sports club. We couldn't do that sort of 17 thing. How could you be open, because you didn't know 18 whether a response might be violence against you. 19 20 I will ask you a bit about beats a little later, but Q. 21 was one of the ways in which you began to start this 22 process of exploration that you have mentioned by going to 23 beats? 24 Α. Yes. Yes. 25 You were growing up in Maroubra. 26 Q. Where did you go? In my teenage years, my late teenage years, I used to 27 Α. 28 go to Maroubra Beach a lot, and during the weekend you'd 29 see men wandering off around the south end of the beach towards what was then called the Malabar Rifle Range. And 30 31 I suppose eventually I got intrigued by why these 32 attractive-looking men were all wandering around there, and 33 one day I followed and discovered a beat. 34 35 Q. I'll come back to that a little bit later, but apart 36 from Maroubra Beach, by the late '50s or perhaps into the 37 '60s were you becoming aware of other places in Sydney where similar kinds of opportunities arose? 38 Over the '60s, Giles Baths at Coogee was a place 39 Yes. Α. 40 I learned about, and so I would certainly go there. Places 41 like Hyde Park, even late at night in the late '50s, early 60s, the Hyde Park fountain was a place commonly known as a 42 43 beat, and so you would go there and you might meet others 44 of similar inclination. 45 46 As I say, I will come back to the topic of beats a Q. little bit later, but following your own career through for 47

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1 the moment, you studied commerce at the University of New 2 South Wales and you completed a Masters of Economics at the 3 University of Sydney; is that right? 4 Α. Yes. Yes. 5 While you were doing that, you began as a part-time Q. 6 tutor in 1970 in the Department of Economic History at 7 8 Sydney University? 9 Α. Yes. 10 And apart from one year spent in England, you were 11 Q. there for the next 26 years till 1996? 12 13 Α. That's right, yes. 14 And you became, ultimately, by progression, a senior 15 Q. 16 lecturer in that subject? 17 Α. Yes. 18 19 Q. You taught Australian economic and social history and 20 minority studies? 21 Α. Yes. 22 Were you able, initially, to write in an academic 23 Q. 24 context about gay history? Certainly not initially, but once I had tenure and I 25 Α. 26 probably couldn't be sacked from my teaching except for 27 some major transgression, and because I was gay and living 28 in Sydney and experiencing gay life, it seemed an 29 interesting focus for me to turn my professional attention 30 to. 31 32 Q. I think you were awarded tenure in 1975? 33 Α. In 1975, yes. 34 Before that, apart from your caution in risking 35 Q. 36 writing about such topics, was there any indication from your superiors or other academics at the university as to 37 what their attitude was to writing about such a topic? 38 Well, the professor of my department was quite 39 Α. 40 homophobic and he said straight out to me once I started 41 doing my research on gay stuff, "The big end of town doesn't like this, Wotherspoon, so you won't get far." 42 0n 43 the other hand, the Merewether Building at Sydney 44 University had a large number of staff who were gay or 45 gay-friendly, so people like Dennis Altman, Lex Watson, 46 Craig Johnson, people who were very active over the 70s in the gay movement and Sue Wills and Gaby Antolovich. 47 So

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1 there was a whole group of very supportive people there at 2 that time. 3 4 Q. One of your, I think, earlier books, perhaps not your 5 first book, was called "City of the Plain" and the subtitle was "History of a Gay Subculture", and was that in a way a 6 7 forerunner or an earlier version of what later became "Gay 8 Sydney"? 9 Α. Yes. It was written - or it was published in 1991, 10 and so it covered much of what we knew then. In the intervening probably 20 years since - 25 years after that, 11 before Gay Sydney came out, a lot more research had been 12 done, so I was able to avail myself of that, but also do 13 14 some of my own research and bring the study up to date. 15 16 And it was, in short, if I can focus on "Gay Sydney" Q. 17 being a more recent iteration of that work, it is a study, I think, but tell me if this is not getting it right, of 18 19 the history of Sydney in terms of its gay life? 20 Yes. Partly because of the paucity of information, Α. 21 there is not a lot of material on the 19th century, 22 although we certainly know from the late 19th century some information about where people of same sex attraction might 23 24 meet, how they might live their lives, but it is mainly predominantly on Sydney from the 1920s. And the reason 25 that it is from the 1920s, is from the 1920s, for the first 26 time there became what you might call a public discourse 27 28 about sex and sexuality. 29 And that happened because of what factors, as you 30 Q. 31 understand it? 32 Interestingly, it was because of birth control and Α. 33 women's bodies, and the public idea about how to create the 34 perfect family. And so women were very involved, but also at that time a range of medical professions also became 35 36 involved. 37 In your own personal life, I take it that - well, I 38 Q. don't take it; I'll ask you. Were you openly living a gay 39 40 life in your 20s and 30s? 41 Α. Certainly in my 30s, yes. Yes. 42 43 When did you, if I may ask you, tell your parents that Q. 44 you were a gay man? 45 Α. When I had a long-term boyfriend, I thought it was 46 best to explain to them why this person and I were living in a one-bedroom house. 47

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1 2 Q. That was, if I am not mistaken, not until the late 3 '70s? 4 Α. The '70s, yes, late '70s. 5 And that is because, is it, that even to tell your 6 Q. parents, even at that mature age, was not an easy thing to 7 8 do in those days? 9 Α. In those days it certainly wasn't, given that my 10 parents had been brought up in a very different era and had both grown up in the country, so they had fairly 11 constrained ideas about homosexuality. 12 13 14 Q. May I ask you some questions about an expression that is used in the Terms of Reference for this Special 15 16 Commission, namely the LGBTIQ community. I think you are 17 aware that that expression is found in the Terms of 18 Reference for this Commission? 19 Α. Yes. Yes, it is. 20 21 Q. What would you say to the Commission about that 22 expression? That is to say, does it capture in your mind something which is clearly discernible or delineated, or 23 24 are there complexities involved here? 25 Α. It is a terminology that's evolved. In the early 1970s, we just talked about "gay", "gay liberation", and 26 27 that covered women and men. Over time, different subgroups 28 have asserted their own separate identity, so it's 29 gradually grown from, you know, gay, lesbian, bi bisexual, trans, queer, and non-binary are some of the 30 31 later ones, people who don't want to identify in any way in 32 terms of their sexuality or gender identity. 33 34 Q. And intersex of course is another one? 35 Α. Intersex is another one, and there is even an A for 36 asexual. sometimes. 37 38 Q. Yes, so I think you put it in your statement in terms of there really being several or many distinct communities 39 40 or groups, perhaps not distinct, but observable communities 41 or groups within the concept of the LGBTIQ community? 42 And they are really distinct. Α. Yes. We have 43 commonalities, the commonalities being how wider society 44 sees people of a different sexuality or gender identity, 45 but it is a sort of umbrella that covers virtually all the 46 people of different sexualities. 47

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1 Q. One thing you mention in your statement at about 2 paragraph 26 is this concept of the change of language, 3 perhaps in about the '50s and '60s, where the concept of 4 "the homosexual" became part of common vernacular. And 5 that was different from the period prior to then, and it has changed since then. What can you tell us about that 6 7 language?

8 Probably from the late 19th century, the idea that Α. 9 there were two distinct sorts of sexualities, heterosexual, 10 homosexual. That gradually emerged in the 19th century when there was a real push to classify everything, a push 11 12 after Darwin, the development of science, everything had to have a classification. But homosexuality, because it was 13 14 seen by the church as the ultimate sin, never really got So it was probably much later, 15 the same sort of attention. from the 1920s, that the word "homosexual" even began to 16 17 appear in any sort of publication, and even then in 18 Australia, it certainly rarely got mentioned as a word.

20 When Lord Beauchamp's divorce was going through, there 21 was no mention about his homosexuality as being the grounds 22 for his wife filing for divorce, so it was really only 23 probably in the late 40s when the Kinsey Report came out 24 that the word homosexual, and statistics about the amount of homosexuality that could possibly exist in a society, 25 26 passed generally into public use. And it was still a crime, so most of the references to homosexuals were very 27 28 derogatory or about its criminality.

But the 60s, the sexual revolution, you started to see 30 a different sort of way of seeing other forms of sexuality. 31 32 If I could put it this way, the ideas of the New Left were 33 verv important. The old idea that society was a split 34 between capital and labour, the old Marxist idea, was very much changed with the New Left, but there were other forms 35 36 of oppression relating to sexuality, gender, colour, race, ethnicity, so the New Left ideas really took off, certainly 37 in academia, and so the terminology about homosexuals 38 39 changed from being derogatory to more just tolerant. 40 Movies came out, Victim with Dirk Bogarde, movies like In Australia, the old terminology had been "camp", 41 that. and people talk about "camp as a row of tents", and that's 42 what "camp" actually meant. And so, "gay" came on with a 43 44 new word "gay", but it meant something quite different, 45 that you were going to be quite open about your sexuality 46 and gender identity.

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1 Q. I think we have got a little bit ahead of where I was, 2 but that, I think, tell me if I am wrong, that is the 3 arrival of the word "gay", was a little bit later, more 4 like the '60s and '70s? 5 Α. Late '60s, certainly early '70s, yes. 6 7 Going before that, though, into the realm of more like Q. 8 the '40s and '50s, the immediate post-Kinsey period, you 9 talk about reference being made to this kind of generic or 10 disembodied concept of "the homosexual", and I had the sense you, but correct me if I am wrong, that that term was 11 12 used in those times to, as it were, anonymise people who 13 were homosexual, to de-individualise them and to refer to them as a kind of strange subset of people who weren't like 14 15 other people? 16 They were certainly seen as a medical category. Α. It 17 was a pathology, yes. 18 19 Q. Beats, I mentioned that I would come back to that 20 topic. In the broad, if I could ask you that question to 21 start off with, what is a beat from a gay man's 22 perspective? What is a beat? What amounts to a beat? 23 What qualifies as a beat? 24 A beat is a place where gay men, predominantly, go to Α. 25 meet other gay men. I suppose for the outside world, the best way to explain it, it is a gay version of lover's 26 lane, except with a difference; you don't take your amorous 27 28 partner with you there, you find one there. It is a place 29 where you can go. If you're lucky you meet other people of same-sex attraction, but you can also, if really lucky, 30 31 have sex there, and it is casual, consensual, 32 non-commercial sex. 33 34 Technically, I think you tell us that any place known Q. 35 or that becomes known as a place where that might happen 36 would constitute a beat? 37 Α. Yes, that would be true. Something like the Hyde Park fountain. People couldn't always have sex there, but you 38 could go to a place and you could meet people sitting 39 40 around there at night having a drink; this was how you 41 would meet other people. 42 And was there a distinction or a difference to be 43 Q. 44 observed, at least in your mind or in the mind of others, 45 between indoor areas and outdoor areas? 46 If the purpose was to have sex, it had to be a Α. Yes. 47 place that you could have sex discreetly. So public

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toilets, places like that, often served that purpose. 1 But 2 outdoor areas like a walkway or a beach promenade or 3 Malabar Rifle Range are places you could go to and have sex 4 discreetly. 5 Q. One of the documents that you refer to in your 6 7 statement is a piece that you wrote, I think in about 2012, the heading to which is, "And The Beats Go On." 8 9 Α. Yes. 10 It is one of the documents attached. 11 Q. I think it is 12 tab 31 [SCOI.76820]. If it is able to be brought up on the And you talk about beats in a little more detail 13 screen. in this document. I just wanted to ask you about a couple 14 15 of aspects of it, not all of it by any means. 16 17 But in the first few pages, the first three or four 18 pages, you identify in broad or generic terms some 19 different types of beats in Sydney over the years, the 20 first of them being public baths. 21 Α. Yes. 22 And could you just mention a little bit about how that 23 Q. type of beat first made its presence felt, perhaps a long 24 25 time ago, and then into more recent times? 26 I think the attraction of baths is men in the nude Α. wandering around in maybe a towel or something, and in 27 28 terms of Sydney, the first probable reference publicly to 29 it was in Havelock Ellis's book back in the 1890s or early 1900s where he talks about the Turkish baths in Liverpool 30 31 Street just near Oxford Street, where men go and have sex. 32 Around the same era, in Oxford Street there was 33 Mr Wigzell's baths, which were further up Oxford Street on 34 the south side, and it was known then at the time where you 35 could actually go and have sex with men. There were certain days which were "men only", and if you want a bit 36 of cross-class sex and sexual activity, they have two 37 nights a week where working boys could come in, working men 38 could come in for two and sixpence. 39 40 41 If we scroll down to the next page on the screen, just Q. a little bit further if we could, thank you very much. The 42 43 second area or type of place where beats might emerge that 44 you talk about in this document is parks and particular 45 streets in the city? 46 I mean, in the late 19th century Hyde Park was Α. Yes. 47 notorious not only for homosexual sex but also for picking

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up prostitutes, sex workers, along the Elizabeth Street 1 2 side of it, where the homosexual activities was on the 3 other side of it, the College Street side. So parks, the 4 advantage of parks, I suppose, is that it is a place where 5 you could have discreet sexual encounters in the bushes and Centennial Park is another park in Sydney which 6 things. 7 has been a major beat for a decade, I would say, but 8 virtually any park out in the suburbs could well be a park, 9 and there's a reason for that. 10 In Sydney, apart from parks, there were particular 11 Q. areas of the streets, at least in days gone by, such as, I 12 13 think, Boomerang Street and others? Boomerang Street no longer exists, but it was 14 Α. certainly a major beat. If you drove your car around 15 16 there, you could certainly pick up people. The advantage 17 was it was close to Hyde Park, so if someone wanted a quick 18 encounter, you could possibly go over to Hyde Park. The 19 other street that is guite notorious of course is 20 Darlinghurst Road at what is now the National Arts School by the old jail. It was actually just simply known as "The 21 22 Wall". It was a place where you could actually go and pick someone up. 23 24 25 Q. If we scroll down to the next page, again, the third area that you talk about in this article is public toilets. 26 And to some people, I think, historically, as I have read, 27 28 the notion of men going to have sex in toilets has been 29 something of - an idea that's not attractive. But for gay men, the world is a different place. Would you tell us 30 31 something about that? 32 Well, yes. The illegality of homosexual contact or a Α. 33 way for meeting people meant that we had to be quite subversive in how we viewed what you might call the 34 35 institutions of broader society and a place where men could go into and, if I may put it this way, have their penises 36 37 out, was a very enticing way for gay men to make some sort So public toilets have been very 38 of contact there. important, and certainly in Sydney, public toilets in parks 39 40 and, if you want, I can come back to it later, but also 41 once the city railway network was set up, public toilets there were a major place. A lot of people were passing 42 through, and who knows what might occur. 43 44 45 Q. I won't take you to that document in Thank you. 46 detail any further, but you have provided it to the Commission; it is an attachment to your statement. 47 0ne

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1 thing which you mention in your statement, and I should ask 2 you this, were beats attended only by gay men to meet other 3 gay men or were there men who went to them who might not 4 have seen themselves or be seen by others as gay? 5 Α. Gay men certainly knew about them and certainly went to them, but when AIDS came and ACON was doing research 6 7 about how to get the message out about how to have safe 8 sex, they had something called "beat workers". Beat 9 workers were men who went out to the beats. One of the 10 things that came out of the research was that many people 11 using beats in the suburbs were not gay men, or were men 12 who wanted to have sex with other men but didn't identify 13 as gay and wouldn't go anywhere near Oxford Street in case it sort of impugned them and gave people thoughts. 14 So many of the people using suburban beats are actually nominally 15 heterosexual married men who occasionally wanted a bit of a 16 17 dalliance.

Q. Just back to your own experience of beats, briefly,
you mentioned early on in your teenage years discovering
the beat at the south end of Maroubra Beach, and I think
you also mentioned Giles Baths in Coogee, but what are some
of the other ones that you became aware of, in the '60s,
for example?

25 Α. Centennial Park was certainly one. We used to play our sport there after school. Our school sport was there 26 on a Wednesday afternoon. So you soon, after sport was 27 28 over, if you dallied around, you often could meet other 29 people for interesting encounters. Bondi Pavilion, I never went there myself but I knew about Bondi Pavilion as a 30 31 place where men could meet other men and have a sexual 32 encounter in the cubicles.

Q. At this time - or perhaps if it is later, you'll tell us if it is later - did you become aware of some others, for example, Marks Park in Bondi?

37 Α. Yes. Pub gossip in the gay bars, you would soon learn about where other beats were, and certainly Marks Park I 38 39 knew about; I had been there once or twice. I learned 40 about Manly, the beat at North Head, and I went there a 41 couple of times during the day. I never went there at night; it was just considered dangerous. 42 But you learnt about a lot of other beats too: Rushcutters Bay Park, 43 44 places like that, St Leonards Park, Petersham Park. 45

46 Q. Moore Park?

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47 A. Moore Park, yes.

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1 2 When you said a minute ago that - I think it was about Q. 3 the North Head beat, that to go there at night was 4 dangerous, or that that's what you heard, what was it that 5 you heard that was dangerous? Well, there was no lighting, so it was more dangerous 6 Α. 7 to try and simply to get there at night. It wasn't as if 8 there were any sort of stories about it, no. 9 10 There was also - and you mention this briefly in your Q. 11 statement - certain bars and certain hotels which were 12 known as places where gay men could meet. 13 Α. Yes. Because pubs had been forced to shut at 14 6 o'clock up until the early 1950s, people could only drink And so, certain pubs in the city became known as 15 there. 16 places you could go and meet other gay men. The Australia 17 Hotel, a very smart hotel in Martin Place, the Long Bar at The advantage of it, it had two different 18 the back there. 19 entrances so if someone you saw and you didn't want them to 20 know you were going in there, you could duck out the other 21 Around in Castlereagh Street was the Carlton Hotel, wav. 22 Ushers was another hotel, and Pfahlert, up near Wynyard 23 Park, was another hotel. These were known as places where 24 - and these were very middle class, I would say, hotels. The other set of hotels were the ones in George Street from 25 26 Circular Quay from, say, Circular Quay up to Town Hall where the Town Hall Hotel had a town hall. 27 The Royal 28 George down the bottom of George Street was mainly the 29 Sydney Push, but the Belfields Hotel was known as a place to pick up sailors if you wanted to. All the pubs were 30 31 generally known along there as "Salt Meat Alley". That was 32 the place. 33 34 And then you mentioned a couple also in your statement Q. in the Kings Cross, Potts Point area? 35 In Kings Cross the Rex had long been a hotel for camp 36 Α. 37 men, as they were called in those days, largely because the Cross had always had a fairly bohemian atmosphere from 38 39 the 1920s onwards, and so it was a place where outsiders 40 could go and not feel, you know, out of place. So the Rex 41 was the main one there, but I think in the early 1960s, the Chevron Hotel opened there and it had a Quarter Deck Bar, 42 43 another place you could go. A lot of young sailors would 44 go there for a free drink, a bit of sex later and then a 45 bashing. 46 47 Q. You talk in your statement about two dangers that came

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1 to be associated with going to beats, the first of them 2 being "bashers", sometimes then, in the language of days 3 hopefully gone by, "poofter bashers". 4 Α. Yes. 5 Q. Before I come to your own experience, in terms of your 6 7 research, you have gone back in time and found some 8 materials, including newspapers, referring to that 9 phenomenon, called in the language of those times of 10 "poofter bashing", from a very long time ago? Yes, yes. Look, there are references in 19th century 11 Α. 12 and late-19th century newspapers that talk about, you know, 13 the dangers of this. Probably the most explicit bit I came across was 1968, a reference in Newcastle, the Newcastle 14 15 Morning Herald, or something. 16 17 Q. We might turn that up. I think it is tab 94 in the 18 bundle [SCOI.76856]. This is an article from the Newcastle Morning Herald, of 20 June 1968. Is that the one you are 19 20 referring to? 21 Α. That's the one, yes. 22 And the judge sitting at the Quarter Sessions made the 23 Q. observation that "hunting in packs had to stop". That's 24 25 the one you're talking about? 26 That's the one I'm talking about, yes. Α. 27 28 And the evidence apparently, according to the Q. 29 article in the top left-hand column, was that a pack of young men had hunted for homosexuals to attack, and if we 30 31 scroll down a bit, a bit further towards the bottom of that 32 page, under the heading "Bond Conditions", a couple of 33 paragraphs down, we see that Constable Appleby, who 34 possibly was the prosecutor, it seems, from the report, said that the defendants had gone from Blacksmiths, which 35 36 was an outer suburb of Newcastle, into the city of 37 Newcastle to Newcastle Beach, which is right in the centre of the town, to go "catting." Is that an expression you 38 heard and tell us a bit about that? 39 40 41 I've not come across it very often. I mean, it might Α. well simply refer back to a catamite, who was sort of, you 42 43 know, the passive person in a homosexual or sexual 44 encounter. It probably passed into common usage in the 45 interwar period and certainly the after-war period, but it 46 is certainly not a common term we would have used here in 47 Sydney.

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1 2 Q. A couple of paragraphs below, the article records that 3 the defendants decided to visit the toilets at the eastern 4 end of Newcastle and have fight with anyone they found, and 5 the constable, Constable Appleby, said - that is, told the court, it seems - that it was generally known that men with 6 7 homosexual tendencies were known to frequent those toilets? 8 Yes, and it was clear that the police knew about this Α. 9 toilet as a place where homosexuals would gather. 10 11 Q. That is an article in June 1968. Have you come across 12 other materials, other newspaper articles or other publications that have told a similar story? 13 Probably the most prominent case in Australia is the 14 Α. Dr Duncan case in South Australia, Dr George Duncan. 15 He was thrown into the Torrens River, which was a major beat 16 17 in Adelaide and, unfortunately, being English, he never 18 And so, where it was fairly common learnt to swim. 19 practice for the poofter bashers to go and throw the 20 poofters into the Torrens River and watch them come out 21 bedraggled and wet, unfortunately for Dr Duncan, he didn't 22 He drowned. And so, the subsequent come out. 23 investigation named the three police officers who were involved in throwing Dr Duncan in that night. The three 24 25 police officers subsequently - they left the Police Force. 26 I'm not sure whether it was forced to leave or not, but certainly the case of Dr Duncan is the other best known 27 28 case where police knew what a beat was and in this case 29 they were actually involved in the violence. But, yes, in my own experience, I did have my - the first time I was 30 actually bashed was outside a CAMP dance in Petersham, in 31 32 Parramatta Road in Petersham, and I was bashed. I can come 33 back to that later and talk about it. 34 We will come back to that, yes. 35 Q. Α. I was bashed, and my partner and I, we got into a car 36 37 to get away, to drive away, and we saw a police wagon. So we stopped the police wagon, and I said, "We've been bashed 38 and back up there, there are the guys that have bashed us." 39 40 And the policeman said, "Oh, you've got to report this at 41 the police station," and all that. So, of course, I Having lived in the Eastern Suburbs, I didn't know 42 didn't. 43 where Petersham Police Station or any police station out 44 there was, so we drove straight to the South Sydney 45 Hospital and my partner's broken nose was attended to, my 46 bashed face was attended to. 47

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1 Q. We will come back to that. Just before we leave the 2 1968 Newcastle Herald article, if we could just have that 3 back up again briefly, in the second column, if we just 4 scroll up now, in the second column, the middle column - I 5 was wrong before when I postulated that Constable Appleby was the prosecutor, because as we can see in the second 6 7 full paragraph, the Crown Prosecutor was Mr Ashton, so Mr 8 Appleby was giving evidence. 9 Α. Yes. 10 And what Constable Appleby said in his evidence 11 Q. 12 included this point of the newspaper, that there was no suggestion at all that Doyle was a homosexual. 13 Constable 14 Appleby said that each of the accused admitted that no 15 steps were taken to determine whether the complainant was 16 what they regarded as a "cat". The fact that he was in 17 there at that hour was enough for them. Does that strike a 18 chord with you either personally or in terms of your research? 19 20 I have come across other cases where a non-homosexual Α. 21 person inadvertently being at a toilet at a certain time 22 I think the most recent one was a case in can get bashed. 23 Randwick Park in Randwick, where a married man was doing 24 his run, for the nightly run, stopped to have a pee at the toilet there and was bashed. 25 26 27 Q. Thank you for that. I won't need to go back to that 28 one again. Before we get to your own time and your own 29 experiences, and just looking at your studies and your research, so far as you understand it, when gay men were 30 31 bashed in this type of way, did they commonly report to the 32 police? 33 Α. Look, because really it were illegal up till 1984, you 34 certainly wouldn't go to the police to report it. Otherwise they would want to know what you were doing there 35 36 at that time, and your name would then be known to the police as someone, "Why were you there?", and you were 37 potentially on their radar as a homosexual. 38 So people just didn't simply go to police. It was often said in a bar, 39 40 "If you ever get bashed, don't go to the police. Thev 41 won't do anything for you". 42 43 By the 1980s and '90s, did that begin to change? And, Q. 44 if so, what was happening in the 1980s and 1990s that might have something to do with that? 45 46 I think there was a couple of answers to that. Α. 47 Institutions take a lot of time to change culture, and so

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1 certainly the attitude of much of the gay community, even after the law had changed in 1984, wasn't necessarily, "Oh, 2 3 you can go to the police now, they will all be different." 4 And, to be quite honest, our general experience was that 5 the police weren't particularly interested in gay bashings. And so, eventually we set up our own anti-violence project 6 in 1990-91 to monitor what was actually going on, what was 7 8 being reported, and what action was being taken in response 9 to those reportings. 10 Was there a difference to your observation between the 11 Q. amount of coverage of such attacks in what I might call the 12 gay press, on the one hand, and in the mainstream press on 13 14 the other? 15 Α. Yes. The mainstream press rarely - well, partly 16 because this wasn't well-known, the mainstream press rarely 17 reported on this. Much of homosexuality was simply reported as a criminal thing, but the gay press certainly 18 19 became aware of it, and so there was increasing amounts of 20 reportage in the gay papers about the violence and the 21 beats and places to be aware of. 22 You were, in the '70s, '80s and '90s, working as an 23 Q. academic and a researcher and, I presume, keeping abreast 24 of what was being published in the gay press about these 25 26 and other matters; is that right? 27 Α. Yes, yes. We did keep a record. 28 Are you able to express a view as to whether, apart 29 Q. from specialists such as yourself, gay people generally had 30 a consciousness of the extent of the violence that was 31 32 going on? 33 Α. If you identified as gay, you would probably hang around Oxford Street and would read the gay press. 34 But most men who are homoerotically inclined certainly didn't 35 live that sort of life. They might live out in the suburbs 36 37 with a partner or whatever. So the knowledge of the beats and their danger was probably fairly constrained and 38 constricted to those who frequented Oxford Street or read 39 40 the papers there. So general knowledge wouldn't have been terribly wide in either the homosexually inclined people or 41 even in the wider community. 42 43 44 I want to move to the second type of danger that you Q. 45 referred to in your statement. The first being bashes, and 46 the second being in your statement, you have suggested, was the police themselves. What was the danger that, as you 47

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1 understood it, the police presented the the times we are 2 talking about, first of all, the 1950s, 1960s, 1907s? 3 In my research, I came across a lot of evidence of Α. 4 police acting as agent provocateur. They would actually go 5 into a public toilet and act provocatively and - to incite someone to make a pass at them and then act - arrest that 6 7 The evidence goes right back into the 1930s and person. 8 Even in passing, when Britain was considering the 1940s. 9 implications of the Wolfenden Report, a sociologist was 10 commissioned to write a report on sex in public toilets, and he made a throw-away line, a comment that the CID in 11 12 Sydney employs young attractive detectives to go into these 13 toilets to act as an agent provocateur. 14 15 Q. Is that something written in the 1950s? 16 Α. That was late '50s, I think it was, yeah. And the 17 interesting thing about that, of course, in 1952, the law was changed so if you actually solicited someone to commit 18 19 a homosexual act, you were committing a crime. So 20 technically all these policemen themselves were committing 21 a crime and inciting someone to commit a homosexual act. 22 23 Q. In a section of your statement at the beginning of paragraph 60, you give the reader, in summary form, a kind 24 of account of the gay history of Sydney from the very early 25 days, the colonial days, through to the present. 26 Ι appreciate that in your book "Gay Sydney", you have written 27 28 at much greater length on that very subject or on those 29 themes. Α. Yes. 30 31 32 So we won't attempt to reproduce your book this Q. 33 morning, but I would like to just ask you a few things 34 about some of the features of that history that stand out. One of them is, if I may suggest, that you make the 35 36 observation - please don't take it from me, but express it yourself - that several of the institutions of society, in 37 particular the religion or the churches on the one hand; 38 39 medicine and health professionals for a second group; and 40 the law, both the law-makers in parliament and police for a 41 third example; all had attitudes which you might expand upon, which played into the way in which homosexual life 42 43 was led in this State. Could you tell us something about 44 those three institutions and how they played out? 45 Α. The churches, certainly going back to the Old 46 Testament, sodomy was seen as a major problem for people. Interestingly, people who choose to use the Old Testament 47

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1 attitude to homosexuality are fairly selective. I mean, 2 Jesus Christ complained about money lenders and things like 3 that, but no one turns on the banks these days. So it's 4 selective how people pursue and select their prejudices, so 5 that's the point that I would like to make there. And so. 6 the church has always had this attitude that homosexuality 7 is a sin, a major sin. Some of the churches still today, 8 the high Anglican and the Catholic Church, are like that. 9 Many of the other churches have moved on and decided if you 10 love someone, what is the difference, love is the most 11 important thing. The medical profession is an interesting 12 I mentioned before about, in the late 19th example. century, the classification of things starting to develop. 13 And in the late 19th century there was the idea that there 14 was homosexual and heterosexual. Havelock Ellis, in his 15 16 book, decided, well, what he wanted really, if you look at 17 nature, homosexuality exists in all animal species and 18 humans are an animal species, so therefore it is something 19 that congenital; it is not an acquired perversion or a 20 But the 1930s, Freud was coming from psychiatry and vice. 21 he was saying, well, it's just another form of sexual 22 expression. He'd written a series of papers about it to the American Psychiatric Association; it is just another 23 variation on the sexual theme. And then of course the 24 Kinsey Report in 1948 was really most important, because it 25 was the first time anyone had actually done any deep 26 27 research, on a broad population base, on homosexual 28 The homosexual stuff is merely one part of experiences. 29 the Kinsey Report. The Kinsey Report is behaviour, sexual behaviour in the human male. So it talks about males going 30 31 out with prostitutes or premarital sex, but the 32 homosexuality one which is the one that really caused a 33 The evidence was that nearly or around a third of stir. 34 all males had had some form of homoerotic involvement to 35 the point of orgasm in their lives. Now, that could be partly teenage experimentation, partly situational 36 37 homosexuality, but it is a very high proportion. And so men, I think one of the things that law-makers took up, 38 was, well, if a third of the population have had this sort 39 40 of experience, is this the sort of thing we ought to put 41 people in jail. So I think that was why the Kinsey Report was seen as very important. In the medical profession, it 42 43 took a while for it to sink in. It got a lot of publicity 44 in the Sydney newspapers. One of the headlines was "Sex Report is Dynamite", and so suddenly a whole range of 45 46 people would now know that a lot of men were having 47 homosexual experiences.

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1 2 The headline, "Sex Report is Dynamite", did that Q. 3 reflect your understanding of the impact the Kinsey Report 4 in fact made in Sydney? 5 Α. Well, actually it didn't, actually. This was 1948. In through the 1950s, it was the Cold War era and so there 6 7 were other concerns. I mean, even the Police 8 Superintendent of Sydney, Colin Delaney, in, I think, 1952 9 or 1953, said the two greatest threats facing Australia are 10 communism and homosexuality. Five years later, when he was actually Police Commissioner of New South Wales, he'd 11 12 narrowed it down; it was just that homosexuality is the 13 greatest menace facing Australia. 14 Q. Greater than communism? 15 16 Α. Greater than communism, yes. From his view. And he was a very staunch Catholic, so I think the Church's 17 18 teachings had been embedded in him. 19 20 So we had the churches regarding homosexuality as a Q. 21 sin, and we had the medical profession, at least up to some 22 time in the 1950s or perhaps a bit later, regarding 23 homosexuality as a? Mental illness. 24 Α. 25 26 Q. A mental illness or a sort of disorder. 27 Α. Pathology. 28 29 Q. And we had policemen, not only the police, seeing it as a crime? 30 31 Α. Yes. 32 33 Q. Indeed, not only seeing it as a crime, but --34 Α. It was a crime. 35 36 Q. -- it was a crime. There were the amendments in 1952 which, apparently because they'd been using the old 37 soliciting law, which had originally been related to men 38 picking up prostitutes or women soliciting men, they had to 39 40 amend the law to make it very explicit that "with or 41 without the consent of the other partner". 42 43 Q. You mentioned in the war years and the post-war years, 44 the agent provocateur methods of police continued, and you 45 referred to the case of Clarence McNulty, the editor of the 46 Daily Telegraph. You talk about the Kinsey Report and its 47 impact. You also talk in your statement, and I don't need

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1 to be lengthy about this because these are matters which 2 are matters of public record, but there were changes to the 3 laws in this State in the 1950s and 1960s, as you refer to. 4 What are some of the ones that stand out for you? 5 Α. I think the main one that does stand out is the early 6 1950s, the legal changes there. After the war - the war 7 had certainly changed - I suppose it changed every country, 8 but certainly in Sydney it was seen as the morals of the 9 city had collapsed. American soldiers were here, women 10 were throwing themselves at the American soldiers. So 11 there was a sense after the war that the moral collapse 12 brought on by the war had to be addressed in some way. And 13 I think it was the Governor-General who actually made a broadcast in the early 1950s about the threats facing 14 Australia, the threats facing outside, which was communism, 15 and the threats facing inside, which was moral collapse. 16 17 And I think that sets the general tone of why the laws, in 18 New South Wales, certainly, were changed in the early 1950s to make it much more stringent about homosexual acts or 19 20 soliciting for homosexual acts. 21 22 Q. And thus the penalties were increased, I think?

23 24

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Α. The penalties were actually increased, yes.

25 Q. And there was an amendment in the early 50s to make it 26 clear, if it wasn't already clear, that even 27 consensual homosexual activity was criminal? 28 The non-consensual, strange at the Α. And that was, yes. 29 time because it was already illegal, so consent seemed a But sometimes you do get anomalies in the 30 strange thing. In the 1970s, late 1970s, the anti-discrimination 31 law. 32 laws were changed in New South Wales to protect people. 33 You couldn't be - homosexuals couldn't be refused services or things, and yet, they were still criminals until 1984. 34 So the law sometimes has its anomalies. 35

37 Q. At the same time in society, other changes were unfolding as well as changes to do with attitudes towards 38 39 homosexuality. And you have referred to this briefly in 40 your statement as well. The youth culture, the world of 41 rock music, the world of people living a more bohemian life in greater numbers and more obviously. Was that 42 43 significant for the gay world?

44 Look, very much so. As a baby-boomer myself - I hope Α. 45 this doesn't sound like I'm being immodest - but we lived a 46 very different life. We grew up after the war in a period of economic security, political stability, there were jobs 47

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for everyone. And in 1961, the Menzies Government actually 1 2 introduced something called Commonwealth scholarships. His 3 view was that Australia was needing a much better trained 4 workforce into the future because the world was 5 industrialising, and things like that, but it meant a lot of younger people went to universities and not all of them 6 7 did engineering or medicine or something like that. Manv 8 of them did the social sciences and so we are all 9 inculcated with a whole range of new ideas, that things 10 that had once been set in stone, or seen as set in stone, weren't necessarily set in stone; things could change. And 11 12 so, the sexual revolution, women's lib, all these things 13 started in the 60s from a generation who decided they didn't really want to live the sort of lives that their 14 15 parents and grandparents had lived. I can understand why their parents and grandparents wanted peace and quiet, they 16 17 had lived through the Depression, World War II, so for them 18 they didn't want to rock the boat. But the young ones 19 growing up with economic stability, who would get a job 20 eventually, who weren't yet tied down with marriage or 21 mortgage or things like that, we wanted to change the world 22 to make it a different place. 23

Q. So there was an atmosphere of upheaval generally, and 24 25 not just in the world of attitudes to homosexuality? It was very much all around the Western world. It was 26 Α. 27 very much parts the industrial recovery, the post-war 28 reconstruction, with plenty of jobs. In New South Wales, I 29 think in Australia, the Australian Women's Weekly even introduced something called the Teenager's Weekly. We were 30 31 new, affluent, young, and we had lots of money and we could 32 spend it on what we wanted: Clothes, pop music, stuff like 33 So the music of the younger people then was so that. different to what their parents had grown up and loved. 34 35

Q. At about the time that Mr Delaney made those remarks
 apropos homosexuality and communism in the 1950s, in the UK
 the Wolfenden Committee in 1957 brought down its report
 recommending limited or partial decriminalisation for some
 homosexual acts. That presumably made the news in
 Australia?

A. It received very broad coverage here in Australia.
The Herald, interestingly it was until well into the 1950s
that The Herald could never use the word "homosexual" in
its index, so "homosexuality" was referred to as
"perversion." So it just gives you an indication of what
you might call a good newspaper at the time, how it even

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1 saw it. The Wolfenden report was actually into 2 prostitution and homosexuality, but the homosexuality 3 aspect of it was seen as very important here. Mind you, it 4 took 10 years before the British Government would actually 5 implement, and implement very limited decriminalisation. 6 It had to be, I think, no more than two persons? Some 7 terribly strange restrictions on what could actually occur. 8 But certainly here it triggered a lot of interest in 9 various groups, and one of the groups that was very 10 important was the Council of Civil Liberties, which had often, over a range of reasons, had run-ins with 11 12 authorities partly over censorship, certainly partly over 13 police activities in dealing with average citizens. 14

In New South Wales, within a year or so after the 15 Q. Wolfenden report came down in the UK, there was a committee 16 17 established by the Government of this State called the 18 Would you tell us about that? Trethowan Committee. 19 Partly as a response to the Wolfenden report Α. Yes. 20 coming out, there was pressure on the New South Wales 21 Government to do a similar thing here in New South Wales, to set up a committee to look at homosexuality. 22 They had 23 already set aside Cooma Gaol, the top level of Cooma Jail, as a place for homosexuals. But the committee's main 24 25 purpose, I think so far as the government was concerned, was to find out the causes of homosexuality so that they 26 27 could have a cure. The Wolfenden Committee comprised 28 Professor of Psychiatry, Professor Trethowan; a couple of 29 social workers. Interestingly enough, there were two Minister of religion and someone from Corrective Services. 30 The report was never released. 31

- 32 33
- Q. The Trethowan report?

34 The Trethowan report was never released. Α. It was 35 announced that it had been completed in the early 1960s and that its release was imminent, but it was never released. 36 And the story going around, and Professor Trethowan never 37 denied this, was that what you might call the professional 38 39 people on the committee, the psychiatrists, the social 40 workers, had decided it really wasn't a problem of the 41 homosexuals; it was a problem of society's attitudes to homosexuality. This of course didn't go down well with 42 43 Corrective Services or the Ministers of religion, so the 44 report was never released. It's never been seen. 45

46 Q. A couple of other things in terms of the chronology.
47 You have already mentioned, going back 30 years, that

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1 Freud's view had become well known, namely that 2 homosexuality should not be classified as an illness but rather as a variation of sexual function. And then you 3 4 referred to Havelock Ellis, and then in 1972 homosexuality 5 was removed from what is known as the DSM, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. What was the 6 7 significance of that in your mind? 8 Look, I think it was very important. I mean, the push Α. 9 from the gay lib movement was to take on the institutions 10 of society which penalised us or made us lesser citizens, and certainly the medical profession, with homosexuality 11 12 seen as an illness, a pathology, this was one of the real stumbling blocks. So much of the early push from the 13 14 gay lib movement was to have the stigma as a medical 15 illness removed. So when the American and the Australian 16 Psychiatric Association removed this stigma it was seen as 17 a very important step. Suddenly, one of the institutions of society that had, you know, persecuted us or prosecuted 18 us for so long was no longer an enemy. 19 20 21 Q. Namely the medical profession? 22 Α. Yes. 23 Q. I wonder if I could ask you to tell us, if you know, 24 25 when did the Sydney Morning Herald change from "perversion" to "homosexuality"? 26 I think it was probably the late '70s or '60s. 27 Α. Ι 28 think it really was very late, yeah. 29 Let me ask you a couple of things before the break. Q. 30 31 Α. It was between home and honey, if you wanted to find 32 out where it was actually not listed, you'd find it came to 33 that. Home, homosexual and honey. 34 Q. 35 There was a noticeable hiatus between home and honey? 36 Α. Yes. 37 Before the break, I just wanted to ask you a couple of 38 Q. 39 questions about what was happening, as it were, on the ground in Sydney, in the '60s and '70s, and one of the 40 41 things you talk about is the emergence of gay clubs. Firstly, from origins, perhaps in private homes, as I 42 43 understood it, and then burgeoning out into clubs. Could 44 you tell us something about that? 45 Α. Prior to the 60s, there was probably what you would 46 call friendship networks, was the way which most homosexual groups maintain friendships and networks of friends. 47 0ne

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example was simply the Hyde Park Push, these guys that used 1 2 to meet after 6 o'clock closing, get a bottle of wine and 3 sit around there, and new people would come along. These 4 friendship networks were a real way of sustaining our 5 criminal, illegal society. Eventually in the 1960s and 6 perhaps also reflecting those trends we were talking about 7 before, about younger people wanting to change, some of 8 these set up clubs. The Pollys, the Pollynesians, the 9 Karingals, a range of them. And they probably represented, 10 I suppose the best way of describing it, is "friendship institutionalised." They were very discrete. 11 Membership 12 lists were very private. Any correspondence was sent out in pre-smartphone days in plain brown paper envelopes. 13 And 14 so, people knew when dances or events were going to occur. 15 16 And then some of the clubs that you refer to - I won't Q. 17 mention them all by name, but you mention them in your 18 statement - were mainly in the inner city, the eastern 19 suburbs included in that, but some of them further afield 20 in places like Petersham and Mascot; is that right? 21 For these clubs, you would have to find Α. Yes. 22 somewhere to rent a hall where there wouldn't be too much 23 public attention. So the suburbs like Petersham and 24 Mascot, you could easily rent a hall there. The further 25 out west - I suppose partly Sydney being a fairly 26 concentric city, most people came and socialised in and 27 around the city. So that's why the clubs and the bars at 28 the Carlton, the Ushers, and people who knew you from there 29 would go to these dances or events. 30 31 And you speak about various clubs and bars emerging in Q. 32 Kings Cross and Oxford Street, in those areas, such as 33 Ivy's Birdcage and Capriccio's and various others that you 34 mention, and you talk about that area, the area around 35 Oxford Street from Hyde Park all the way to Paddington-Town Hall, becoming known as "the Golden Mile". Is that Golden 36 Mile meaning golden from a homosexual or gay point of view? 37 Gold for us, golden for gay, yeah. To be gay is 38 Α. 39 golden, yes. 40 41 Q. And the surrounding area was known, it seems, as "the ahetto"? 42 43 The ghetto, yes. Α. 44 "Ghetto" sometimes has a forlorn or downtrodden sense 45 Q. to it, but in this case what was meant? 46 Look, I think - and this is a way minorities 47 Α. No.

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1 re-use language. I mean, poofters are poofters, but many 2 gay men are happy to call themselves poofters, and I think 3 referral of the ghetto is very tongue-in-cheek. The world 4 might regard it as a bad place but for us it's heaven. 5 Q. 6 The Golden Mile? Α. The Golden Mile. 7 8 9 Q. You referred to, simultaneously with this and partly 10 bound up with it, was the process of gentrification going on in those inner city areas generally, Paddington, 11 12 Darlinghurst, Kings Cross and Potts Point, and of a gay 13 media emerging. When was that happening? 14 Look, the gentrification is, I think, very important. Α. It partly reflects the younger people, you know, the 15 16 baby-boomer generation, they had grown up, had money. A11 17 these old terraces in Glebe, Paddington and Darlinghurst were there for the taking. You bought one, you did it up 18 19 and suddenly you had a very smart townhouse. So a lot of 20 the old prejudices of previous generations that these 21 suburbs were just slums that ought to be done down, we saw 22 them differently, or the baby-boomer generation saw them 23 differently. And so, there was an increasing number of young people coming back into the city area, younger 24 25 professional people, younger professional people who had a good education, who weren't constrained by ideas of 26 previous generations, and this was an era of the sexual 27 28 So a whole range of attitudes were changing revolution. 29 very much about sex and sexuality. For women, the pill came in in 1961, and suddenly for a lot of women this was a 30 31 major development. You didn't have to worry about whether 32 he put his condom on or not. And so, it was a real era in 33 which there was so much change going on and being gay 34 wasn't seen, by this new generation, as such a terrible thing that it had once been seen as. 35 36 Commissioner, would that be a convenient time? 37 MR GRAY: 38 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I will take a break for a quarter 39 of an hour or so. Thank you. 40 41 SHORT ADJOURNMENT [11.24 am] 42 43 44 MR GRAY: Mr Wotherspoon, can we just move on a little bit 45 from where we were to bring ourselves forward eventually to 46 the '70s and '80s. 47

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1 One of the noteworthy events that took place elsewhere 2 in the world, we had the Wolfenden Report in the UK in 3 1967, but two years later in 1969 there were the riots in 4 New York known as the "Stonewall Riots". Tell us about 5 what happened, as you understand it, and also what the impact or significance was here? 6 7 The Stonewall Riots - I suppose nowadays we see it as Α. 8 a symbolic start of gay liberation. The Stonewall Inn was 9 a bar in New York. It had suffered a lot of police 10 harassment. They paid the police off, but the police still harassed them. And then one night the police decided they 11 12 were too noisy, or something, and so the police tried to close the Stonewall bar. 13 14 Well, this night, and this is the '60s, so there had 15 16 been probably a new mentality developing, the patrons 17 decided they weren't going to put up with it. And so, 18 there was a riot. The police tried to close the bar, and 19 the patrons started to stone and throw things at the 20 They locked the doors and didn't let the police police. 21 out. 22 So the next night the police decided they would close 23 the bar, and they tried to close it but more and more 24 25 people came. So it just gradually escalated up from that So what became passed into, I suppose, mythology or 26 night. 27 urban stories, is the Stonewall Riots were seen as the 28 start of fighting back against a range of attitudes of 29 police in society against homosexuals. 30 31 In the United States, at that time, what was the legal Q. 32 position of homosexual behaviour? 33 Α. Look, in most - virtually everywhere, it was illegal. 34 But the laws in America were very strange. There was a whole range of laws which applied as much to heterosexuals 35 36 about sexuality as they did to homosexuals, but the laws 37 regarding homosexuals were just as restrictive as here. Much of it was, I suppose, anywhere in the Anglosphere, if 38 we can call it the Anglo-Saxon world, whereas on 39 40 continental Europe, Napoleon had decriminalised 41 homosexuality in 1807 or 1808. So the Anglo-Saxon world, as a hangover from England and Henry VIII's laws, there 42 43 really still had these attitudes to homosexuality. 44 45 In this State, in this city, 1970 saw the setting up Q. 46 of the Campaign Against Moral Persecution, or CAMP, and I think you were involved in that. 47

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A. Yes, I was involved, yeah. We though it was a very clever title, because CAMP had been "camp as a row of tents", the way in which we often referred to each other, so calling ourselves not gay, but "CAMP", was seen as a fairly Australian way of dealing with it.

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Q. What did CAMP do, the organisation?

8 Α. We had a range of, I suppose, ambitions or plans to 9 do. We wanted to, I suppose, re-change the way in which 10 Australian society saw homosexuality. So it meant taking on the churches about how they saw us, but particularly 11 taking on the medical profession. We didn't really want to 12 13 be seen as mentally ill anymore, and so things like 14 aversion therapy where - which was a way in which psychiatrists attempted to recondition your emotional and 15 16 sexual responses, showing you photos of attractive men and giving you electric shock, I don't think it worked for many 17 18 people, but I know some people said it's the best 19 collection of homoerotic art they'd ever seen in their 20 lives, so they thanked the psychiatrists. But the other 21 aspect, of course, was changing the law, the law which 22 criminalised us for being what we were. And so from - that was one of the main ways in which CAMP would take on law 23 change, change the medical profession. It's hard to deal 24 with the church, I mean the church is the church. 25

27 When you say "take on", do you mean by writing, by Q. 28 publishing, by lobbying politicians, or what? 29 Well, for changing the law, yes. Basically, lobbying Α. politicians, petitions and things like that. But for the 30 31 medical profession, we actually did confrontations. We'd 32 actually confront a psychiatrist who was doing aversion 33 therapy there - McConaghy - and in you'd go to his - he was 34 at the University of New South Wales, so he had demonstrations on the lawns outside the library there. 35 I think at one demonstration people even threw eggs at him, 36 37 but it was one of those things where you felt you had to do something and you weren't able to do something. 38

40 Q. Am I right to understand that the organisation that 41 was at least initially known as Sydney Gay Liberation 42 emerged from CAMP?

A. Yes. CAMP was set up in about 1970 or 1971, and very
soon on the university campuses, the University of Sydney,
New South Wales, ANU, Melbourne, CAMPus CAMP was set up, so
"CAMPus CAMP" was sort of a good name for it. But within a
year or so at CAMP itself, the main one here in Sydney, the

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1 feeling was it wasn't radical enough, it was too reformed, 2 it was simply doing very little to actually confront 3 people, forcefully confront people, who we thought were 4 persecuting us. So gay lib hived off. And so, many of the 5 CAMPus CAMP groups, very quickly, because they were mainly young people, changed very quickly and we called ourselves 6 gay lib. 7 8 9 Q. We mentioned or you mentioned before the break that 10 just at that time or slightly later in 1972, homosexuality was removed from the DSM, Diagnostic and Statistical 11 12 Manual, and then in 1972, I think the same year, correct me 13 if I am wrong, Dr Duncan was killed in Adelaide? 14 Both in the same year, yes. Α. Yes. 15 16 Q. The same year. And then in 1975, in South Australia, 17 homosexual conduct was decriminalised, the first State in 18 Australia to do it? 19 Α. Yes, that was in 1975. 20 21 Q. And that, I take it, was in part, a reaction to the 22 Duncan murder? 23 The Duncan murder really generated an enormous amount Α. He was an English academic, he had come to 24 of publicity. Australia to teach at Adelaide University and ended up dead 25 in a river there purely because he was a homosexual. 26 And 27 so, back in England there was an enormous amount of 28 publicity about this, as well as publicity here in 29 Australia. So it generated - I think the Premier of South Australia, Don Dunstan was quite sympathetic. His Premier, 30 Peter Duncan, was also guite progressive. And so, they 31 32 felt the time had come to simply change the law. 33 34 Back to this State a few years later, and 1978 brought Q. the march down Oxford Street which is now usually described 35 as the first Mardi Gras, although it may not have had that 36 37 name, I think, at that time. But were you involved in that event? 38 Yes, I was involved. We often did various marches and 39 Α. That day in June 40 demonstrations over much of the '70s. 41 1978, we had a march through the Sydney of the morning, complaining about our treatment, we had a conference up at 42 43 Paddington Town Hall that afternoon to talk about various 44 human rights issues, and somewhere along the line someone 45 said, "We should just have a parade or Mardi Gras down the 46 street, Oxford Street, through the Golden Mile." We had a permit for all that. We had a truck with music playing off 47

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the back of the truck and, when we got down, and we walked 1 down the street saying, "2-4-6-8, gay is just as good as 2 3 straight, stop these attacks on gay, women and blacks." So 4 they represented, the chants we were doing represented the 5 concerns of the community at the time. When we got to the bottom of Oxford Street, the truck went on to Hyde Park and 6 7 they were still playing music, but strangely the police 8 actually attempted to confiscate the truck and the music, 9 tried to stop, even though we did have a permit to do that. 10 And so, you know, a strange way, if the police had not interfered at that point in time it might not have been 11 necessary for second, third, fourth, fifth, Mardi Gras, for 12 13 what it has become today. 14

I won't ask you for your account of that day, and it's 15 Q. 16 not my purpose in asking you these questions, but it is 17 well recorded historically that there were outbreaks of violence that day, at that march between the marchers and 18 19 the police. And one effect of that, I gather, is this 20 right, at least as you saw it, that the Summary Offences 21 Act was repealed in a year or so and replaced by the 22 Offences in Public Places Act?

The Council Civil of Liberties, over much of the '60s 23 Α. 'and 70s, had been very adamant about the police abusing 24 25 the power of the Summary Offences Act against ordinary And so, what happened, because of the Mardi Gras 26 citizens. 27 and the violence that occurred, much of it was sort of 28 captured on television, and when on the Monday morning the 29 court cases in the civic central court in Liverpool Street where the cases were about to be heard, the police lined up 30 31 across the front of the court and refused to allow anyone 32 in, even though a magistrate, the presiding magistrate, 33 said, "This is an open court. We must let the lawyers and 34 people come in to the public gallery," and they didn't. 35 Now, the amount of publicity of the violence on the Saturday night and what the police had done on Monday 36 37 morning caused an enormous outcry. The Council of Civil Liberties, a whole range of lawyers, the legal counsel, 38 39 even in Parliament, questions were asked about how can the 40 police close the court when the magistrate has said the 41 court is to be open? So it did generate - and I think this is presumably part of the legal profession - the need to 42 43 change the law which the police were using.

Q. Of course, the next big change in the law from the
perspective of what we are talking about today was the 1984
"decriminalisation", to speak loosely, of homosexual

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conduct in New South Wales. 1 2 Α. Yes. 3 4 Q. Briefly, if you can, that happened at not the first 5 attempt or the second attempt, but I think there were several attempts; is that right? 6 7 Yes, there were several attempts at it. Α. I think 8 Barrie Unsworth - part of the problem was they wanted to 9 have differential ages of consent. So the heterosexual age 10 of consent, I think, was 16. They wanted to bring in a law that homosexuals could only do it in certain places, and 11 the age of consent was 18. So within the gay community 12 there really was argument on should we support a law which 13 14 is clearly still discriminatory against us or, on the other hand, one step at a time? We'll take it this way and then 15 16 push later for further law change. 17 18 I think, is this right, there were one or two attempts Q. 19 or bills introduced into parliament before 1984 which for 20 one reason or another were not passed? 21 Yes. There was an Unsworth bill and a Peterson bill; Α. 22 there two bills previously. 23 24 And then ultimately in 1984, the then Premier Neville Q. Wran introduced a private member's bill which was seconded 25 26 by the Leader of the Opposition at the time? 27 Yes, I think that was a clever political move. It Α. 28 wasn't seen as any particular party. It was seen as 29 reflecting changing social attitudes, where the leaders of both parties could see it as a step forward. 30 31 32 And I think that Bill, which ultimately became the Q. 33 Act, did have embedded in it the differential age of 34 consent, did it? Yes, it did have. 35 Α. Yeah. And it took 20-something 36 years to get differential age of consent actually removed. 37 38 Q. Now, at the time when that Act was passed, even 39 allowing for the differential age of consent point, was the 40 decriminalisation seen, as you saw it, both in the gay 41 community and more widely, as a big change? 42 Earth-shattering is probably is a polite way of Α. 43 putting it, simply because suddenly we were no longer 44 illegal. And that really was a major step forward. We had 45 been illegal for centuries, and suddenly the world was 46 different. It would take a long time for institutions to change their attitude, or society to change its attitude, 47

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1 but suddenly it had statements of change. 2 3 Before I get to the AIDS crisis which followed very Q. 4 soon after, did the decriminalisation, to your observation, 5 provoke any change, either positive or negative, in the way that LGBTIQ people were treated in day-to-day life on the 6 7 streets? 8 There had already been a change in the Α. 9 anti-discrimination law a few years earlier, so that had 10 partly started the process. I think it was very gradual, any change in general attitudes to LGBTIQ or queer people. 11 12 I think that takes a long time; generational change takes a 13 long time. But there was a sense of freedom, there really 14 was a sense of freedom for those of us who were open about our gender and sexual diversity. I am not sure whether the 15 16 wider public necessarily saw it in any specific way. It 17 was just a changed law for a small minority. 18 19 Q. What about any - and again, before we get to the AIDS, 20 the arrival of AIDS, was there any negative response to the 21 decriminalisation? 22 Well, there are certain elements of society which Α. 23 still regard us as degenerates or pervs. If I may mention his name, the Reverend Fred Nile from the Christian 24 25 Democrat Party has often prayed for rain on Mardi Gras. 26 There are a few elements of society that really can't 27 accept social change, and so there certainly have been 28 those that say nothing should be changed. But certainly 29 for the gay community there was, you know, a sense of a new world possibly opened. 30 31 32 Q. And then almost before the ink was dried on the 1984 33 Act, the world was afflicted by the AIDS crisis, including in Sydney. What was the effect of that, from your point of 34 35 view, among those you moved with? It was - initially, AIDS was called "GRID", the "Gav 36 Α. Related Immune Deficiency". So it was clearly a disease 37 which was seen as being inherent in the gay community, even 38 39 though now we know anyone, irrespective of age, gender, 40 ethnicity, anything can get it. It is transmitted by blood 41 and semen. So in the early days, it was seen as our disease, and we were the ones who were bringing this 42 43 disease into society. So it certainly, I think, triggered 44 a very adverse reaction over a wide range of people. I 45 think the Medical Journal Australia even had one of its 46 covers where it said "Degeneracy and Depravity Kills". And so, this from the medical profession. We were lucky at a 47

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1 time we had, and certainly Federally, two doctors who as 2 Health Minister, Neal Blewett, and Peter Baume as the 3 shadow Health Minister, so very clearly they saw this as a 4 public health issue, not a morality issue. So they were 5 quite supportive of groups like ACON that the gay community set up themselves to look after the people in our community 6 who had HIV/AIDS. 7 8 9 Q. In 1987, the Grim Reaper advertising campaign hit the 10 nation's newspapers and television screens. What was the 11 impact of that as you saw it? 12 Α. Once again, I think it created ambiguities. I mean. 13 the wider world certainly needed to know that it wasn't 14 only a gay disease; it could affect anyone. But it was the gay community thought it was overkill, you know, the 15 16 Grim Reaper knocking down and killing a whole family, so 17 there was certainly ambiguity in the community about it. Ι 18 think it was probably effective in broadening the wider 19 community's, the Australian community's knowledge, that it 20 wasn't just a gay disease, but it was an unfortunate way of 21 doing it. 22 Are you able to express a view from personal 23 Q. experience or from what people have told you as to 24 attitudes displayed of gay and lesbian people in Sydney in 25 26 light of the Grim Reaper campaign? 27 Α. I'd say it certainly heightened the overt abuse of 28 homosexuals in Sydney. I mean, we would get car loads of 29 young hoons driving around Oxford Street late at night yelling out, "Poofters, poofters. Get AIDS, die." 30 Things 31 I think also for those poofter bashers from like that. 32 earlier years, who had always been there, whatever their 33 purpose was, it gave them an extra, in their own mind, 34 justification for what they were doing. 35 36 Was there, to your observation, in the 1980s, let's Q. say from about the mid-1980s onwards, an increase in the 37 level of violence that was LGBTIQ people were experiencing? 38 It sort of correlates with the 39 Very dramatically so. Α. 40 broader knowledge of the wider society about AIDS and gay. 41 So there was a massive increase in the amount of gay Dykes on Bikes, bless their soul, they even set 42 bashings. 43 up patrols around the gay areas of Oxford, things like 44 that, to, you know, discourage hoons coming in from the 45 suburbs and bashing people. I think you could say that 46 these bashings and things did get reported to police. There was a feeling in the gay community that we weren't 47

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1 getting any real adequate response. And so, I think 1990 2 or 1991 we set up the Anti-Violence Project, which was a 3 group of, I suppose, gay men and lesbians, to look at this, 4 to look at what this represented, this massive increase in 5 violence against us. We had a sociologist, Adam Gravcar, who is now a professor of sociology. He came and talked to 6 7 And the question we were all concerned with is: why us. 8 are a certain group of young men so interested in bashing 9 other people? And the discussion about it was toxic 10 masculinity. What is it in terms of some men: domestic 11 violence, homophobic violence, what is it in their psyche 12 that they do these sort of things? I think the modern terminology for it is "toxic masculinity", and what we were 13 14 discussing was how do you resocialise the young Australian male? And we had a variety of, I suppose, input to schools 15 16 and things, like that which has been very slow again. 17 In about the mid-80s, in this State, there was a 18 Q. 19 Police Gay Liaison Group set up. Do you remember that? 20 Yes, I think Sue Thompson would probably be the first Α. 21 person in it, or --22 23 Q. Or possibly Fred Miller? Α. Well, yes, you're right. Fred Miller had previously 24 been the member for Bligh, Parliamentary, State Parliament. 25 26 And he - of course, his constituents in Bligh was very much 27 around the Oxford Street area. So he, as our political 28 representative, was very aware of the concerns of the 29 community about the violence. And I think he probably initiated the setting up of it. I think the first person 30 31 formally appointed was Sue Thompson, within the Police 32 Department. 33 34 Q. That was a little later, I think, but --Α. 35 Yes. 36 But, accepting that, those 37 Q. In about 1990. appointments of Fred Miller and later Sue Thompson and the 38 existence of the Police Gay Liaison Group, what can you say 39 40 about how effective that was or how well received it was, 41 or how you saw it functioning? From my perspective - and this is partly gay and 42 Α. partly academic - we didn't seem to get a great response 43 44 from police. I think Sue Thompson herself can probably 45 explain to you how things occurred at her level. We didn't 46 seem to get great response, and that's partly why the anti-violence project was actually set up, because we 47

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1 didn't feel that even though there had been gay liaisons 2 set up, our concerns weren't actually being addressed. 3 4 Q. One of the things that the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby did was to publish the "Streetwatch Report" in 1990, 5 and subsequently other reports in a similar vein. Were you 6 7 aware of those or involved in those at the time? 8 I was aware of them. I wasn't involved in the Gay and Α. 9 Lesbian Rights Lobby itself, but we knew, and they liaised 10 with the Anti-Violence Project about getting material for the various reports that they put out, and those reports 11 were done simply because we weren't getting any response 12 from the police, adequate response. 13 14 And what was the idea of these reports? 15 Q. That the data 16 is assembled, it's compiled for a report. What did you do? 17 What was done with the report? With what in mind? 18 Like a lot of those reports, it would hopefully lead Α. 19 to change or increased awareness. So the reports were 20 given to our local members of Parliament, they were given 21 to various newspapers, they were given to various media 22 organisations, simply so the public were aware of what was actually going on, what - the amount of violence that was 23 actually being generated. 24 25 You mentioned earlier your own first experience of 26 Q. being bashed, which was back in 1970. And it happened in 27 28 Petersham, where the hall was that you mentioned which 29 could be rented out for dancing and other gatherings? Discreet dances, yes. 30 Α. 31 32 Tell us about what happened, both the bashing itself, Q. 33 and tell us about what happened in the aftermath of that? 34 It is a story with a message. My partner at the time Α. and I, we left the dance about 1.30, walked down the 35 36 Parramatta road down towards my car. And there was a group 37 off youths who were quite well dressed. They weren't thuggish-looking; they were just standing there. 38 And as we were getting in the car, one of them said, "Can you tell us 39 40 where Petersham is?" And they were gradually moving closer 41 And as I was about to get in the car, it was a very to us. low-slung car, one of them reached over and punched me 42 43 straight into the face. And so I fell down, and he jumped 44 on me and started punching and kicking. The other group 45 set on my partner and bashed him. The intriguing thing 46 about it was when the bashing of me had ended on the ground, on the floor, the guy who was doing it to me said 47

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to me, "No hard feelings, mate." Now, what did that mean? 1 2 I mean, it meant it was sport or something to them, to bash 3 someone, a bit of brutal activity and "No hard feelings, 4 mate", and I've pondered for years and years and years on 5 the meaning of that for him and for me. 6 7 You attempted to find the police, and you told us this Q. 8 earlier this morning, and the police wagon you found 9 contained an officer who said they were busy and that you 10 needed to go to the station? 11 Α. The station, yes. 12 And then you didn't do that, you simply went to the 13 Q. 14 hospital: is that right? And it was a time when the Askin Government was 15 Α. Yes. 16 pushing for law and order agenda. They were tired of 17 having hippies and long-haired radicals on the streets 18 protesting about the Vietnam War, and things like that. 19 And so Askin was pushing a real law and order campaign for 20 the upcoming election. And I had a friend who worked for 21 The Bulletin, and he said, "Well, you really ought to write 22 up what happened to you." And so it was published in The Bulletin about, you know, there is this violence out there 23 in the suburbs where someone could bash you up and say, "No 24 hard feelings, mate." That was published in The Bulletin 25 and Brian Hoad, who was the editor of their Red Page, said 26 to me - this is 1970 - "You shouldn't mention you are a 27 28 homosexual and this was a CAMP dance you were leaving, 29 because that be seen as, you know, putting you in a difficult position," and I didn't have tenure at my job at 30 31 the university at that stage, so it was just mentioned that 32 I was in Petersham, walking down the street, and these guys 33 set on me. The article was published in The Bulletin on a Wednesday and The Bulletin had its re-issue, but then the 34 article was republished on the Sunday, in the Sunday 35 Telegraph, which had a far, far wider readership. 36 And I 37 think all hell broke loose because suddenly here was a good honest person, a teacher, no doubt, a young man, bashed in 38 the street, and the police said, "You've got to go and find 39 a police station to report it." So within two or three 40 41 days I received a phone call from a policeman who said they would like to come and take a statement from me about the 42 43 And so we arranged it and they came, and at the incident. 44 time the person at the university in the room next to me 45 was Ken Buckley, who was the president of the Council of 46 Civil Liberties and Ken had a long and, I suppose you could call it, "uncomfortable" relationship with the police. 47 He

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1 was often - he was one of the people who was, I think, 2 fairly instrumental in getting the Summary Offences Bill 3 changed to be the new law. And so, when the police came to 4 take my interview and I said, "I'd like someone to sit in 5 with me", because Ken had said he would like to sit in on this, and the police came and I said, "Here's the person 6 who is sitting in. It's Ken Buckley." And then the 7 8 Sergeant said, "It's going to be like that, is it?" And I 9 said, "Well, yes. It's going to be like that." So they 10 took my statement and left it at that. And about a month 11 or so later, the police got in touch with me again and they 12 said, "We think we might have found people who could be instrumental in what happened to you," and I said, "All 13 14 right." So they said, "Next Saturday night would you be 15 free to come out and show us these people?" Well, they 16 took me out to the CAMP dance at the Petersham Dispensary 17 Hall and walked me through the Petersham Dispensary Hall, 18 two uniformed police and a plainclothes detective, saying 19 to me all the time, "Do you see anyone here?" Do you see 20 anyone here? Is that it?" And I said, "No." I mean, I think it was done directly just to humiliate someone who 21 22 actually brazenly spoken out in public against them, but 23 also to let all those people there know, we know you are 24 here: we know what you are. And I was never invited back to the CAMP dance at Petersham. 25 26 27 Q. The two articles that you have mentioned, could we 28 just bring them up briefly, if that could be done. The first one is at tab 96, [SCOI.76855], which is the 29 article in The Bulletin, headed, "No hard feelings, mate". 30 31 And the subheading: 32 33 A tale for our times 34 35 Reads this way: 36 37 A night-time incident in a Sydney suburb, told by Mr Garry Wotherspoon, tutor in 38 economic history at the University of 39 40 Sydney. Read it. It's YOUR kind of law 41 and order story. 42

That presumably was written by someone other than you?
A. Yes, a sub-editor wrote the headlines.

46 Q. From what you were saying a few minutes ago, you 47 understood that, I take it, to be a reference to the

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then-current topic of law and order? 1 2 Α. Law and order, yes. 3 4 Q. And the need for more energetic policing against --5 Α. Yes, a different sort of policing. Rather than spending enormous police resources on public protest, make 6 7 sure you went after real violence in suburban streets. 8 9 Q. I won't ask you to read through the article, but it 10 essentially gives a slightly longer account of the same story you have just given evidence about. And then the 11 next one, which I think is part of the same tab 136 - no, 12 sorry, it is tab 86 [SCOI.77278], is, I think, literally 13 14 the same article? That would be from the Sunday Telegraph. 15 Α. 16 17 Q. In the Sunday Telegraph. 18 Α. Yes. 19 20 It's exactly the same subheading about "it's your kind Q. of law and order story". 21 22 Α. Yes. 23 24 What was the attitude of The Bulletin and the Sunday Q. 25 Telegraph in those days? 26 The Bulletin was seen as, I suppose, a fairly Α. 27 intellectual magazine. The Sunday Telegraph was just a big 28 But they were both owned by Frank Packer, Sunday paper. 29 and so that was how articles written in one could end up in It was usually a one-way street from The 30 the other. 31 Bulletin, because if there was enough interest generated in 32 The Bulletin article, it might be then reprinted in one of 33 the Packer papers. 34 You mentioned that someone in The Bulletin, I don't 35 Q. 36 know if you have named him today, but you have named him in evidence to the Commission, advised you not to mention in 37 the story that it was actually a gay bashing? 38 39 Α. Yes. 40 41 Q. And why was that, did he say? 42 Look, I mean, this was 1970. It was certainly before Α. 43 gay lib had arrived. So there was certainly homosexuality 44 was still seen very much in the old manner of being 45 degeneracy or mental illness or something like that, so 46 there would be very little public sympathy for someone, if it was seen as just a sort of a poofter getting bashed up 47

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1 on the street. So I think it was done quite specifically 2 for The Bulletin not to mention that. 3 4 Q. You wrote that second article, which we just looked 5 at, at tab - I can take you to it. Sorry, if we could just have tab 97, [SCOI.76854], please. This is a story that 6 7 you wrote about the matters that you have just told the 8 Commission about. 9 Α. Yes. 10 And you wrote it not so long ago, only in the last 11 Q. 12 half a dozen years or so,? 13 Α. Yes, yes. 14 15 Q. But you never published it. No, but it's gone into my records in the State 16 Α. 17 Library, so that any future researchers who can come across 18 it can know that there was a story behind the story, which 19 actually explains that it was a CAMP dance and all the 20 other things that occurred. 21 22 Yes. Fast-forwarding you 20 years to the late 1980s, Q. you had a second experience of being attacked? 23 The second experience was my partner and I, we 24 Α. Yes. were just walking down Oxford Street and a group of young 25 punks came out of a bar somewhere, saw us, bashed us and 26 We weren't damaged all that badly, so it was just 27 ran off. 28 another night in the life of a gay man in a Sydney street. 29 Q. Did you report it to the police or anyone else? 30 31 Α. I would never report it. We didn't report that No. 32 It was a small-scale incident, but also you didn't one. 33 expect the police to necessarily pursue it. 34 35 And fast-forwarding again another 10 years or so to Q. 36 1997, there was a third time when you were assaulted; is 37 that right? That was also on Oxford Street. 38 Α. Yes. My partner and I, we'd gone up to Oxford Street to get a cab to go out to 39 40 dinner, and these young guys have wandered up the street 41 after us, bashed us and ran off. 42 43 Q. And what happened this time in terms of the police? 44 This time within a matter of minutes there were two Α. 45 young police officers there. They were very sympathetic, 46 very helpful. They said, "Do you want to go to hospital or anything like that?" And we said, "No, we weren't all that 47

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badly beaten," and he said quite candidly, "Look, we don't 1 2 think we're going to be able to catch these guys." But 3 they were very sympathetic. They were young, young 4 constables. They probably weren't all that long out of 5 police college. So I think there really was a major difference in those years between, say, 1970 and 1997, on 6 7 how police training had taken place. I think there was - I 8 think - I'm not sure when, but I think training in the 9 police college about multicultural society, that difference 10 isn't such a major issue, would have been part of their 11 training. 12 13 Q. Now, on the same path, you refer in your statement to 14 the admirable work of other individual police officers that you are aware of in the last 20 or 30 years. You mentioned 15 16 Steve McCann, Steve Page and Sue Thompson. Do you want to 17 say anything about those people? 18 Sue Thompson I knew personally through the gay liaison Α. 19 officer thing. The other two police officers, I didn't 20 know, but in my research of gay bashings and stuff like 21 that, I've come across things they have written and I am 22 quite respectful and appreciative of their attitudes of 23 what they've done. 24 I think lastly, Mr Wotherspoon, ACON produced a report 25 Q. in 2018 called - the title of which was, "In Pursuit of 26 Truth and Justice". And I think you were involved at least 27 28 at the outset in the process of that report. What happened 29 there? From - we had been aware of the amount of 30 Α. Yes. 31 violence that was going on. Some of the court cases - I 32 think the Scott Johnson case was probably one of the ones 33 that reinvigorated our concerns and the awareness that 34 these bashings had gone on and nothing had actually been 35 done about the police investigation. So I think we had a 36 meeting, of several what we called gay interest groups or 37 stakeholders, whatever the terminology is. And so I wrote a thing called "Enough is Enough." There was so much 38 already out there from journalists, from writers, Greg 39 40 Callaghan's book "Bondi Badlands". All these things were 41 giving us detail of these bashings that occurred, but no one had ever put it all together. So my suggestion was 42 43 we get a dossier, we set up a dossier, with as much 44 information from as many sources as we can, we put it 45 together, and we use that as a document which we give to 46 politicians, to newspapers, to anyone, just to make them aware that here is the data of what has occurred. 47

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1 2 Q. In the end, the ACON report took a slightly different 3 approach. It didn't name the individuals who had been 4 attacked, and that might be the subject of evidence another 5 day, but what was the impact, at least for you and for others, if you could say, of the publication, the 6 7 dissemination, of the ACON report? 8 Look, I think it was very appreciative in the Α. 9 communities that here was something that was highlighting 10 what was occurring in our communities. I think it was also important that it set the tone of future possible 11 12 investigations, that you could do it statistically, you could put all this data together, and here was a social 13 14 problem that had to be addressed. So I think it was very important that way. I don't think it made a wider impact 15 16 in the wider Australian community at all; I think those 17 sorts of reports only make an impact on a small, direct -18 people directly affected: The legal profession, the gay 19 newspapers, gay groups and things like that. And certain 20 politicians did read it, yes. 21 22 Q. And then (indistinct)? And (indistinct). And I think then partly it then led 23 Α. 24 to the upper house, the Legislative Council's own decision 25 to have their own investigation into this. If a private 26 organisation, a small NGO can do this, is this more that we 27 ought to know? 28 29 MR GRAY: Commissioner, those are the questions that I have for Mr Wotherspoon. 30 31 32 Mr Mykkeltvedt, any questions? THE COMMISSIONER: 33 34 MR MYKKELTVEDT: No questions. 35 All right. 36 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. I notice the time, Mr Gray, and I also observe that Mr de Mars, counsel, 37 is going to take the next witness and is working from home. 38 39 40 MR GRAY: Yes. I wondered if it might be convenient if 41 the Commission would adjourn for an early lunch break and 42 we could resume at 2.00. There needs to be some technical 43 matters attended to before the next witness can be called, 44 and it probably would be simpler to do that at 2 o'clock 45 rather than guarter to one. 46 What I will do is I will adjourn until 47 THE COMMISSIONER:

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2 o'clock. 1 2 LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT [12.29 pm] 3 4 5 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr de Mars. 6 7 MR de MARS: Thank you, your Honour. I am appearing 8 remotely to assist your Honour in relation to the next 9 witness, who is Gregory Callaghan. I call Gregory 10 Callaghan. 11 THE COMMISSIONER: 12 Yes. Thank you. Can you come forward, 13 please. 14 <MR GREGORY CALLAGHAN, AFFIRMED</pre> [2.00 PM] 15 16 17 THE COMMISSIONER: Please sit down. And I am not suggesting you won't, but if you can try and keep your 18 19 voice up just a little bit? 20 21 THE WITNESS: Sure. 22 23 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Yes, Mr de Mars? 24 25 MR de MARS: Q. Your name is Gregory Callaghan? 26 Α. Yes. 27 28 Q. And you are a journalist by profession; is that 29 correct? That's correct. 30 Α. 31 32 Mr Callaghan, in connection with the inquiries the has Q. 33 Commission received, you made a statement of 17 November 34 2022; is that correct? That's correct. 35 Α. 36 37 Q. In that statement, Mr Callaghan, you indicate in terms of academic qualifications that you hold two Masters 38 degrees. Can you tell the Commission what those degrees 39 40 relate to? 41 Α. I did a Masters in English at the University of Sydney. When I became more established in my publishing 42 career, I did a Masters in Media Studies at the University 43 44 of New South Wales, that at that time had a media 45 department. 46 The current position you hold is as senior advisor and 47 Q.

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1 deputy editor at the Good Weekend magazine; is that 2 correct? 3 Α. That's correct. 4 5 Q. Am I right that that is a publication that is distributed via both the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age 6 7 newspapers? 8 It is a colour magazine insert that is published on Α. 9 Saturdays in the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age, yes. 10 Could you outline for us the other positions you have 11 Q. 12 held as a journalist in the past? 13 Α. I worked at News Limited on The Australian newspaper 14 for some years and then I moved over to the Weekend 15 Australian magazine where I was a writer and then became 16 deputy editor. And prior to that, I worked on magazines 17 and newspapers, sometimes full-time, sometimes freelance, you know, and I spent 17 years at News Limited before I 18 went to The Herald. 19 20 21 Q. It is the case, isn't it, that in your statement you 22 indicate that you have lived in Sydney all your life? 23 Α. I have, yes. 24 25 Q. And you also indicate you have been active in a number of LGBTIQ community social groups since the 1980s; correct? 26 27 Α. I have, yes. 28 29 Q. And in addition to that, it's the case, I understand, that from 1979 you were going to Oxford Street which you 30 described as so-called "golden gay mile" on an occasional 31 32 to regular basis with friends or partners? 33 Α. That's correct. 34 35 Q. And that you have also been a regular attendee of the 36 gay Mardi Gras throughout the 1980s? That's correct. 37 Α. 38 Just before I get to asking you about the more 39 Q. 40 substantive aspects, Mr Callaghan, the key work you have 41 done in this area, if I could put it that way, in relation to gay crime matters, has been in the - commenced in the 42 2000s in connection with your work for - well, in relation 43 44 to the publication of Bondi Badlands; is that correct? 45 Α. That's correct. 46 47 Q. Bondi Badlands was a book published in 2007; is that

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1 right? 2 That's correct. Α. 3 4 Q. There was some earlier work that you did prior to its 5 publication that made it's way into print; is that right? I attended the inquest that was 6 That's correct. Α. 7 steered by Coroner Milledge in 2002, 2003. I wrote a story 8 that was published in the Weekend Australian magazine, the 9 first, to my knowledge, substantive feature, colour 10 magazine feature, on the murders at Bondi, and that became the book. I worked on the book for about three or four 11 12 vears in my spare time. 13 Thank you. Just in terms of the extent of 14 Q. I see. work that you have done in connection with issues in 15 interest to the Commission, is it the case that the process 16 17 of researching and producing the book and subsequent 18 podcast, Bondi Badlands, involved you interviewing 50 or 19 more people? 20 That's correct. At the very least, 50. Α. I didn't 21 count, but it would be at least 50 between researching the 22 book and then the podcast, which introduced a number of new 23 subjects and material. 24 25 Q. We will get to that in due course. In terms of the 26 type of people the subject of interview, who did they include? 27 28 They included friends/family of the victims; people Α. 29 who knew what was happening in Sydney at the time; Bondi locals; locals who went to the Headland, knew the Headland 30 31 quite well; members of the LGBT community who were aware of 32 the crimes; experts who were collating information on the 33 crimes. I also spoke to police officers. Most notably for Badlands and the podcast was Detective Sergeant Steve Page. 34 35 And when you say the crimes and the deaths that you 36 Q. wrote about and researched, that the primary focus included 37 the matters of Ross Warren, who disappeared in July 1989; 38 39 is that correct? 40 Α. That's correct. 41 And also the death of John Russell, whose body was 42 Q. found at the bottom of the cliffs in the Marks Park area in 43 44 November 1989? 45 Α. That's correct. 46 47 Q. In addition to that, your work involved looking at a

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1 number of other matters from the same era; is that correct? 2 Α. That's correct. 3 4 Whilst I am not attempting to suggest that these were Q. 5 all of the matters, but they included the deaths of Richard Johnson and William Allen in the Alexandria area; is that 6 7 correct? 8 Α. That's correct. I looked at a number of murders at 9 that time. 10 In addition to interviews of individuals, what other 11 Q. forms of research was involved in your research for the 12 13 publications? 14 For the book, I did what any journalist does, and Α. 15 they, you know, go to their newspaper archives and, you 16 know, you do a thorough research through newspaper stories 17 at the time. You speak to members of the LGBT community 18 who have followed the very dark story of these murders, and 19 people such as Sue Thompson who have been collating 20 information now for over 25 years. You speak to the people 21 who know what they're talking about. 22 23 Q. Did you gain a degree of familiarity with the media of the era, if I can put it that way in terms of, in 24 particular, newspaper media? 25 There was a lot of newspaper media. 26 Α. What is provided in my statement here, I should emphasise, is representative 27 28 It would take weeks and months to but not comprehensive. 29 track down every newspaper story, particularly newspaper stories in the LGBT press at the time, because there was no 30 31 real archiving system that existed from that period. So 32 those stories are very hard to obtain. So, yes, I did 33 quite a bit of newspaper research as well. 34 At the conclusion of your statement, you have referred 35 Q. 36 and appended a significant number of newspaper articles. 37 Are you saying that they are far from a complete record of the media at the time? 38 39 Α. Yes. I need to emphasise that, that the selection of 40 stories are representative of the themes; that is, 41 suspected murders in the cases of Ross Warren and John Russell within the LGBT community, in the mainstream press. 42 43 But there were many, many more stories that could be, you 44 know, unveiled, had more time been available. These crimes 45 were widely covered at the time. 46 47 Q. Thank you. You refer in your statement to the 1980s

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1 as being "the best of times and the worst of times" for the 2 LGBTIQ community. Could I ask you, in relation to that, in 3 what sense do you say that they were the best of times? 4 They were the best of times because the community came Α. 5 into its own in the 1980s. As a result of the Mardi Gras, that first demonstration in 1978, in terms of the growth of 6 7 businesses within the LGBT community, from the early '80s 8 onwards, social groups, community groups. **Oxford Street** 9 itself, the number of venues in the 1970s. Gay bars were 10 tucked away, they were behind blackened windows, they were upstairs. What happened in the 1980s is the signage came 11 12 down to street level. Basically, the community came into its own. There was a blossoming of LGB culture. Venues, as 13 14 I say, businesses, social groups; that was the best of 15 times. 16 And if I could speak to what you mean by the worst of 17 Q. 18 times? 19 The worst of times was that this also coincided with Α. 20 the HIV/AIDS epidemic. From around 1981 by the mid-to 21 late- 1980s, young men, full of promise, full of youth with 22 their lives ahead of them, were dying. The community, to its credit, through organisations like the Bobby Goldsmith 23 24 Foundation at that time set up support services. It also -25 we also became a lot more sophisticated in dealing, or the community groups did, I should say, in dealing with the 26 media. 27 28 29 Q. You refer in your statement to a particular article. I wonder if tab 69 [SCOI.77374] could be brought up on the 30 31 This is an article you refer to from 1 March 1992, screen. 32 with the headline, "Fun Conceals Grim Reaper", published in 33 the Sun Herald, as I say, 1 March 1992. If we could just scroll down slightly. We see, I think, Mr Callaghan, just 34 in the very introductory portion, a reference to the gay 35 Mardi Gras having occurred "last night". Do you see that? 36 37 Α. Yes. Yes. 38 39 Q. That article, without going to all the detail, appears 40 to repeatedly highlight the effect of HIV/AIDS on the 41 community, on the gay community in particular. In terms of your reference to "best of times, worst of times", does 42 43 this article appear to speak to that dichotomy? 44 In a kind of tabloid sort of populist way, it Α. Yes. 45 The media treatment of HIV/AIDS against this does. 46 background of the Mardi Gras was patchy during that period. There were misrepresentations, even by the Sydney Morning 47

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Herald, of people who were dying and watching the parade 1 2 that was - there was a newspaper story - I am not 3 expressing this very well. There was a newspaper story in 4 the mid-1980s, published in the Sydney Morning Herald by a 5 journal list, that the story outlined dying patients, dying 6 HIV/AIDS patients at St Vincent's Hospital watching the 7 And the story was highly emotive, but it was also parade. 8 fictional, and that journalist was sacked. I give that 9 example because there were many examples in the media of 10 this kind of juxtaposition, and sometimes it was feeding some of the popular prejudice at the time. 11 I think this story here was reasonably well-intended but, again, it can 12 reinforce this idea that gay men in particular at that time 13 14 were disease spreaders. 15

16 Is it your suggestion that there may be some nexus Q. 17 between that and the motivations of some of the 18 perpetrators of violence at the time? I have no doubt. I think that in their minds they 19 Α. 20 were given a kind of perverse moral justification to bash and kill gay men because they were perceived at that time 21 22 as the disease spreaders. So I don't think the bashers needed much of an excuse, but this gave them kind of, if 23 you like, a social justification; they're doing society a 24 25 favour by, you know, punishing gay men in various forms.

27 Q. You refer in your statement generally to Thank you. 28 the increased visibility of the gay community, and that the 29 potential increased knowledge on the part of the public generally in relation to, in your words I think, where "gay 30 men would hang out", and you refer to a particular part of 31 32 Do you see again the nexus between that increased Sydney. 33 visibility and violence that was occurring? 34 Oh, absolutely. You know, if you know where to go, Α. and you want to commit a crime, then the crime rate is 35 36 obviously going to go up. By this stage, by the 1980s, as I said, once Oxford Street had sprung to life, once those 37 bars, once those venues was very visible, there was a huge 38 upward trajectory of crime around Oxford Street. 39 But there 40 was also a huge increase in attacks on gay men, lesbians 41 and transgender people across other areas of Sydney as One of the hot spots, for lack of a better word, was 42 well. 43 the Bondi Headland. Now, that headland, because of its 44 geographical features, had long been a beat. And it was 45 becoming better known to the wider community about beats. 46 And, again, this coincided with the AIDS epidemic and also a rise in street crime, petty street crime in parts of 47

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Sydney anyway. So, basically, the culprits knew where to 2 They knew the back streets behind Oxford Street where ao. 3 exits from the bars were. They knew the bars, where some 4 of the other venues were. So it was bees to the honey pot, really.

7 Mr Callaghan, in addition to referring to that Q. 8 increased visibility and its consequences, you also 9 referred to the level and, if I can put it this way, the 10 quantity of violence increasing at this time, late 1980s through to the early 1990s. You refer to the range of 11 12 media that you attach to your statement. Without going to all of that material, I'd now just like to take you to a 13 14 small selection of that material in relation to the levels of violence at the time and the manner in which it was 15 16 being reported upon. If we can go to tab 65 [SCOI.76857]. 17 That's an article that you refer to in your statement as having been published on 17 December 1988 in the Sydney 18 19 Morning Herald. Mr Callaghan, just on that date, 17 20 December 1988, it's correct, isn't it, that that precedes 21 most of the deaths that you were writing and subsequently 22 wrote about? As in, it precedes late-December 1988 death of William Allen, the July 1989 disappearance of Mr 23 Warren, and the death of Mr Russell in November 1989. 24 Ι just want to draw to your attention, with that frame of 25 26 reference, first of all, we can see, I think, in the second paragraph, that the level of violence being reported at 27 28 that point in time refers to nearly 30 attacks on 29 "homosexuals", as the language is used in the article, having been reported to the gay and lesbian counselling 30 31 service in just over a month. Do you see that? 32 Yes, I do. Α.

34 In addition, the various acts of violence that are set Q. out in the panel in the middle of the article with a map, 35 36 certainly there seems to be a significant number of those in that vicinity of Oxford Street, the vicinity that you 37 referred to in your statement; is that correct? 38 That's correct. 39 Α.

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41 Q. In addition, and consistent with what you've said about there being reported violence against gay men and 42 43 also against women, I think we see, at about two-thirds of 44 the way down that first column, an indication in terms of 45 those reports, they included 22 men but also six women in 46 the past month. That now appears to be reflective of what you have already told us; is that right? 47

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1 Α. That's correct. 2 3 Notwithstanding that concentration of matters at the Q. 4 Oxford Street area, we also see, don't we, other areas 5 referred to, including various inner west locations, but also further out west in the area of Bankstown. 6 Does that 7 reflect your understanding of the violence occurring in 8 other areas as well? 9 Α. It does. This is, bearing in mind, just a snapshot. 10 Violence was happening right across Sydney, not just in the inner west; not just in the inner city, not just at the -11 12 well, the Bondi Headland really became a hotspot a bit 13 after this story was published. This was '88, so we are 14 talking 1989 with Bondi. But wherever there was a beat in the southern suburbs, the northern beaches, North Head, the 15 16 western suburbs - this story alludes to Bankstown, but 17 wherever there was a beat, there was violence and quite a 18 And bearing in mind when you read significant up-tick. 19 newspaper story that says "30 reported cases", that is a 20 drop in the bucket because only a fraction of people, only 21 a fraction of victims, went to the police at that time. 22 23 Q. Yes. Thank you. Could I take you to another article, on this occasion, to tab 63 [SCOI.76916]. It is different 24 in nature because it is a letter to the editor of the 25 Sydney Morning Herald. Can we have tab 63? If not, we 26 27 can - if we just look, going down to the article, starting 28 towards the bottom, "Gay Bashing", this is from the Sydney 29 Morning Herald, 18 April 1989, so just to orientate ourselves, that is about four months after the last 30 31 article, Mr Callaghan. If we go then up to the top to see 32 the conclusion of that letter, that's a letter that has 33 been sent from Mr Gary Cox and Jane Clements from the Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby in Darlinghurst, and perhaps 34 consistent with what you have been telling us, you'll see 35 it refers to the organisation Streetwatch program revealing 36 37 and alarming level of verbal abuse and physical assault not confined just to the - sorry, if we go back down: 38 39 40 Not confined just to the inner city trouble 41 spots, but also occurring in Western Sydney and regional and country centres. 42 [And] 43 not confined to gay men, but also lesbians, 44 too, are frequently the victims of rape by 45 teenage gangs. 46 Bringing that to your attention, the evidence Mr Callaghan 47 .21/11/2022 (4) 227 G CALLAGHAN (Mr de Mars)

1 has - as well as the mainstream media representations, 2 there are instances of the community members themselves 3 asserting their concerns in this manner letters to 4 newspapers. Was that a feature at the time? 5 Α. Yes. This is reflective. And what I didn't mention earlier, which this letter very accurately points out, is 6 7 that violence was of course happening in regional and 8 country areas as well. My reference point is Sydney, I 9 grew up here. I know it. I was around at the time. I saw 10 with my own eyes and heard with my own ears what was going Certainly, it was also happening in country and 11 on. 12 regional areas as well. I heard anecdotal reports at that time, and subsequently a lot of other pieces have come to 13 14 light. 15 16 Q. Could we then go to tab 120, [SCOI.76945], please. It 17 may be difficult to read the detail of that, but that's a four-page front page in what is described at the top as the 18 19 gay community's newspaper, the Sydney Star Observer, dated 20 So again, the same era. 12 January 1990. But is it that 21 we were seeing the same concerns expressed directly 22 through, for want of a better term, the gay media or gay press at the time as well? 23 24 Absolutelv. I should say that the LGBT media at that Α. time, which consisted of, in Sydney, the Sydney Star 25 26 Observer, the broadsheet newspaper that later became a 27 tabloid, Campaign, and other publications that kind of came 28 and went from between the late 1980s and the early 1990s 29 were at the forefront of reporting these crimes. As I said earlier, it's a shame that we don't have the archival 30 31 material now, but they were certainly - because they were 32 inside the community, they had the contacts, they weren't 33 shy about reporting what was going on. You know, the 34 stories like this, again, are representative of what was being unveiled in the media at the time, the LGBT media at 35 36 the time. 37 And in this particular article, in addition to stating 38 Q. that gay assault and rape was at the time soaring, there is 39 40 also an expression of proactivity, if I can put it that 41 way, in terms seeing the third call, I think, reference to the Gay and Lesbian Lobby making an urgent call for police 42 43 to increase patrols of the Darlinghurst, Surry Hills and

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Yes.

Α.

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By around 1990, the police were starting to step

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the time in terms of making those sorts of calls?

Newtown areas. Was that a prominent feature of the gay

media, again, if that is the right expression to use, at

1 up to the plate and actually try and do something about the 2 crime wave. By that stage, there was better liaison 3 between the LGBT community and the Police Force. The 4 Police Force attempted to put on street patrols around 5 Oxford Street. It was the early days of, you know, the community and the Police Force actually working together 6 7 for the first time. So that was a significant change. 8 9 Q. I see. Thank you. Then if I could just take you to 10 tab 59, [SCOI.76858], and this is the last article I will take you to in relation to levels of violence at the time. 11 12 It is tab 59. Mr Callaghan, this again is from the Sydney Morning Herald, 4 March 1990. And so, just to draw a 13 14 couple of things to your attention, as distinct from the first of the Sydney Morning Herald articles that we went to 15 16 from, I think, December 1988, by this stage just a bit over 17 a year later, we see some references in the dot points under "Attack Victims" to, first of all, a death which 18 19 would appear to be a reference to that of Mr John Russell, 20 I suspect, in the first dot point. And we also see a 21 reference to the death of William Allen. Do you see those 22 references? I do. 23 Α. 24 25 Q. In terms of reported numbers, in the second paragraph of the main article we see the reference to: 26 27 28 Gay activists say that packs - of up to 15 29 vouths - are responsible for 30 attacks each week. 30 31 32 I appreciate what you've said about the challenges of the 33 numbers in terms of reported attacks, but did you see a 34 much higher level still being referred to in terms of what it was that people in the community may have actually 35 36 thought was happening in terms of numbers; is that right? 37 Α. That's correct, yes. 38 39 Q. Another thing perhaps to draw your attention and ask 40 you about is in the fourth paragraph we see a reference to 41 a form of protest action, in that there is a reference to 500 people marching through the city and then taking some 42 action at the offices of the Festival of Light. Do you see 43 44 that reference? 45 Α. I do. 46 47 Q. What can you tell us about the extent to which over

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time forms of protest action may have developed in response 1 2 to the levels of violence? 3 Well, you know, a community is under siege, that Α. 4 community starts to get very angry. And what happened in 5 1990, following the murders at Bondi, following the murders in Alexandria Park, the gruesome murder which led to 6 7 convictions of Kritchikorn Rattanajurathaporn, a Thai 8 national, a young man who came to Australia, was only in 9 Sydney four or five months, who was slaughtered on the 10 Bondi Headland, there was a lot of community anger. So what happened - what started to happen from around the 11 12 middle of 1990, and particularly through 1991, were a number of demonstrations, one of which - some of which were 13 14 kind of semi-violent, one - I'm not sure if "violent" is the right word - but one of which involved red paint being 15 16 splattered over public buildings. There was a 17 demonstration in front of State Parliament. There was a 18 demonstration down King Street numbering about 600 people. 19 That followed the murder of Maurice McCarty, an Australian 20 ballet technician who was murdered in Linthorpe Street, It was almost like, "Enough is enough, we are not 21 Newtown. 22 going to take this anymore." So there was this huge groundswell of anger, and hundreds upon hundreds of people 23 turned out to demonstrations, and there are at least three 24 that I know of. 25 26 27 Q. Thank you. We might come back to some of those 28 demonstrations in due course. In your statement, you say 29 this: 30 31 At the height of the AIDS crisis, a lot of 32 attackers claimed they were doing the 33 community a service by killing gay people. 34 And you refer to some of the terminology that was used, 35 that was appearing in the media, that you say created 36 37 discrimination against gay men, and you place it in the context of the Grim Reaper advertising campaign. 38 In connection with that, can I then ask that tab 81A be 39 40 brought up on the screen [SCOI.77517]. I don't want to 41 particularly dwell on these pretty terrible sentiments that are being expressed, Mr Callaghan, but just in order to, I 42 43 quess, understand your point and to help me give it some 44 emphasis, do you see that portion of the article on the 45 right-hand side? This is is an article from, I understand 46 it, May 1991. And if we see - sorry, is it possible to move across so we can see the - thank you. 47 That gives an

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account from someone described as, to use the language of 1 the article, a "former poofter basher", given as "John, 21, 2 3 from Sydney's Northern Beaches" and the expressed 4 motivation in relation to what he was doing, was to do it 5 to "teach them a lesson". And we see further down the 6 article this person and what is described as his teenage 7 gang thinking of themselves as self-styled vigilantes. And 8 if we go further down, we can his reference to becoming 9 paranoid that in the course of his bashing activities, he 10 would catch AIDS. There is plenty of dehumanising and upsetting sentiments being expressed there, but is that the 11 12 sort of sentiment that was coming through in the media in 13 relation to the expressed motivation for the conduct at the time? 14

In fact, that piece is quite a nice 15 Α. Absolutely. 16 microcosm of the attitudes in as much as it sums up one 17 thing was that the nature of these crimes, the nature of this violence against gay men, in particular, was to, as 18 this basher says, "To teach them a lesson", to knock the, 19 20 you know, the homosexuality out of them, if you like, so 21 that robbery did happen with these crimes, but robbery became almost an afterthought. It was just kind of the 22 cream on the pie of the attack. I hasten to add, too, that 23 we've got to talk about "bashers" and "poofter bashes" and 24 25 so forth, but they kind of - to simplify, they actually fell into two categories. There were the hardcore people 26 27 that were out there bashing people to a pulp, to within an 28 inch of their lives, killing people, and then what I would 29 call the recreational bashers. They would go be going out on a Saturday night, have a few drinks in their belly, they 30 31 would be with their mates, have, you know, the guts and 32 bravery of the group, of the little gang, or however many 33 of their mates are with them, and they would go out and 34 kind of spontaneously bash a couple of gay men to prove 35 themselves to their mates and just have a bit of, you know, 36 a bit of sport. But it's that type of violence tended to 37 be, as I say, more spontaneous. Incredibly widespread at the time, poofter bashing was in fact a rite of passage for 38 many young men. But that's one thing. The other category 39 40 are the hardcore people, the really cynical, hateful people 41 who went out to seriously do damage to gay men and anybody else who sort of crossed their path within the LGBT 42 43 community, and they went out there and they killed with 44 impunity.

46 Q. We have already touched on, I think, Mr Callaghan, the 47 focus of your work in connection with Bondi Badlands

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1 relating to deaths that occurred in and around Marks Park 2 and also some other deaths around the same era, 3 particularly 1989s through to 1991. 4 In your statement, you make particular reference to 5 6 why it is that you consider the southern headland at Bondi, 7 known as Marks Park, becoming, in your words, "an epicentre 8 of violence and killings of gay men". I wonder if you 9 could take us through the reasons why you say that that's 10 the case? The southern Headland at Bondi, from my speaking 11 Α. Yes. to locals who have been - gay men who have been living 12 there since '70s, 1970s, it had been known as a gay beat 13 14 right back until the 1950s, possibly earlier than that. Why was it a gay beat? Because it was close to a heavily 15 16 populated area, but it was still a remote location. It had 17 very poor lighting. There was no railing prior to the Olympics and the year 2000, when they actually put in a 18 19 railing around the cliff face. There was no railing there. 20 And there were well-known gangs, and when I describe - when 21 I refer to "gangs", I'm talking about the hardcore gangs 22 that I referred to a moment ago in that area, perpetuating 23 street crime, but also targeting gay men on that headland 24 It provided for them perfect camouflage at late at night. 25 that time, just by way of the geography. It is a 26 beautiful, remote headland, very close to the population centre, topped by a grassy verge known as Marks Park. 27 Back 28 in the late 1980s, there was a lot more vegetation around 29 that the bashers would hide in. Their modus operandi was to hide in the bushes at that time, watch who was walking 30 31 along the pathway in the moonlight, and then decide who 32 they were going to attack. So it was the perfect place. And this was well-known. As a young gay man in Sydney at 33 34 that time, I didn't live in the eastern suburbs, I hadn't been there, but I had heard of this place, Marks Park, 35 36 where this violence was happening. And that was in 1989, 37 long before I came to report on it. 38 In addition to what you've been able to tell us about 39 Q. 40 Marks Park, you make a more general observation about beats 41

more generally being known to be especially dangerous
places. Is that something you can expand on in any way, to
communicate why you understand that to be the case?
A. Well, beats were very dangerous places because, you
know, they are hardly in the middle of George Street. So
young people could - young men who wanted to have a bit of
sport on a Saturday night could bash people and get away

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1 with it and make an easy escape. They knew that the police 2 wouldn't be around. They knew that the victims were 3 unlikely to report injuries, even very serious injuries. 4 So beats were particularly dangerous places, and I might add that it wasn't just gay men who were the victims of 5 6 violence; sometimes it was young heterosexual men who just happened to be there but were mistaken for being gay. That 7 8 actually happened around the Bondi, Tamarama to Coogee, the 9 Headland around there, but it also happened in other beats 10 across Sydney. They would be walking across a park 11 unwittingly, and would find themselves a victim of these 12 attackers, because the attackers just assumed they were 13 gay. But why did - I am often asked why gay men went to 14 beats, and, you know, they were dangerous places, but they were also places of community, and for some men who are 15 16 still in the closet, bisexual men, it was a place where 17 they could go without - they clearly couldn't go to 18 Oxford Street where they might likely be seen, so they'd go So beats were often frequented by bisexual 19 to beats. 20 married men as well, but also people went there for 21 community, for conversation, for company. They weren't 22 just about sexual activity. 23 24 I think you made your observation there that your Q. understanding is there would be a reluctance to report 25 26 incidents of violence to the police. Are you able to 27 expand on that and the reasons you would understand that to 28 be the case? Well, there was a very established distrust, for very 29 Α. good reason, of the police. In my podcast last year, I 30 31 broke the story of a young constable who was working at 32 Darlinghurst Police Station, who witnessed police bashing 33 gay men in Centennial Park in the early 1980s.

34 Furthermore, and even possibly even more disturbingly, when he tried to arrest someone for bashing a gay man, he was 35 told by the station brass. "Oh. we don't arrest poofter 36 bashers". And as a result of that, that young constable, 37 that constable with a conscience who was trying to do the 38 39 right thing, was absolutely ostracised by some of his 40 colleagues at that station. So, you know, therein is the 41 relationship between the gay community and the police in the 1980s. As I said earlier, that started to change at 42 43 the very end of the 1980s, particularly the early 1990s, 44 and it started to change in a very significant and, you 45 know, encouraging way, but until that time there was an 46 enormous amount of distrust between what we then called the gay community and the police. And we also have to remember 47

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that looking back now, the 1980s were closer to the 1950s
and early '60s in terms of the thinking, in terms of the
prejudice, in terms of the misunderstanding, than the 1980s
are to today, you know? So it's been a long path towards
greater understanding and tolerance, but we were in a
different paradigm at that time.

8 Thank you. We might come back to some of the matters Q. 9 arising out of your later work on the podcast in due 10 You say in your statement - you refer to the course. attack and death of Mr Kritchikorn Rattanajurathaporn in 11 12 July 1990, the man from Thailand that had occurred in the Marks Park area of Bondi, and you refer to publicity 13 14 associated with that matter as having represented something of a turning point. First of all, can I get you just - I 15 16 know it is a disturbing matter, but just in very brief 17 form, to tell us what the situation was in relation to that And then I'll ask you about the turning point. 18 death? 19 Yes. I should qualify that, because this is my Α. 20 This is my memory from that time. perspective. Ι 21 remembered the Ross Warren disappearance, and basically it 22 was widely thought, widely speculated, that he'd been I remembered the John Russell death. 23 murdered. Again, 24 this is a murder. This is what the community was saying at that time. This is what the LGBT community was saying: 25 But somehow 26 "John Russell and Ross Warren were killed." the police didn't see those murders as being worth 27 28 investigating.

In terms of the turning point, I think that it was not 30 31 just one thing, a number of things. There was a Richard 32 Johnson violent murder in Alexandria Park in January of 1990. 33 In July of 1990, Kritchikorn was murdered, and that struck another kind of, I guess, nerve within the community 34 because, as I said earlier, he was a young man who came to 35 36 Australia to make a new start, a perfectly innocent bloke who just, you know, was chatting, having an amiable 37 conversation, again for company. My theory about 38 Kritchikorn was that that night he was working in the -39 40 washing dishes in a Thai restaurant in Bondi. It would 41 have cost him a fair bit of money to go via Oxford Street by taxi or bus or whatever the case may be, and furthermore 42 43 he had language issues, so maybe he just wanted to have a 44 conversation with one person in a beautiful environment, 45 and that's what he was doing when he was killed. So, I 46 mean, a combination of these murders - you know, I mentioned Kritchikorn because that at least led, thanks to 47

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the sterling efforts, I should say, of Steve McCann from 1 2 Waverley Police, led to a conviction and jail term. But 3 there was a groundswell of anger. You know, Warren, 4 Russell, Johnson in January of 1990. You know, the 5 community had really had enough. And you know what? I don't think that - there was a growing sort of 6 sensibility that, "We don't have anything to lose anything 7 8 This is just out of hand". anymore.

10 You have already touched upon some of the protest Q. action and proactivity that was at the very least emerging 11 12 at this point, and you have already made mention of the 13 protests that I think you have described as involving red 14 paint. I wonder if we could have tab 114 brought up 15 [SCOI.77289]. You refer in your statement, Mr Callaghan, 16 to this being an advertisement that appeared in the Sydney 17 Star Observer on 5 April 1991. Self-evidently, this is an 18 ad that refers to the event that you gave some evidence 19 about earlier; is that right?

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A. That's correct.

22 And first of all, plainly enough, it is expressed in Q. 23 strong terms, if I can put it that way, commencing with reference to "our blood runs in the streets", and it is 24 also expressed in terms that are directed towards, if you 25 26 like, institutions and institutional structures that are 27 said to - in the second paragraph, "actively encourage 28 violence against us". And just as a further reference 29 point, we see, if we just stop it there, if we see the paragraph towards the bottom there, "Enough is enough", we 30 31 see that the relevant event is going to take place on 32 Monday, 8 April. Was it your understanding that there was 33 some connection between that date and I think the 34 sentencing of the offenders in relation to the Richard 35 Johnson matter?

36 Probably. It was probably - it was probably a Α. catalyst. As I say, you know, the groundswell of anger was 37 building and, you know, with the - and I think a young 38 39 doctor was one of the people who was charged for spraying 40 the red paint over the public buildings. But, yes, to 41 answer your question, certainly when the cases - when cases like that, the Johnson case, and so forth, resulted in 42 43 convictions, and it was in the media, and they read about 44 the nature of the murders, how vicious they were, no murder 45 is - you know, no murder isn't violent, but there is 46 something about these murders, these gay-hate murders, where the attackers tended to take - took joy in prolonging 47

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1 the violence, making it - turning it into ultra-violence, 2 making the mocking, insulting their victims as they bashed 3 them to within an inch of their lives, or worse. 4 5 Q. If we scroll down a little further on the page, we 6 heard some evidence earlier, Mr Callaghan, from Garry I don't know if you were present and heard 7 Wotherspoon. 8 that evidence; did you? 9 Α. Yes. 10 In giving some historical context, he referred to the 11 Q. Stonewall Riots, I think, in New York in 1969. And it 12 would look as though, wouldn't it, that reference in the 13 14 right-hand column to 1969 is an invocation, if you like, to those, to the Stonewall Riots; is that the case? 15 16 Α. Yes, that's right. 17 18 If we can go then to tab 83 [SCOI.77380] and look at Q. 19 some of the reporting on the relevant event, this is an 20 article that you refer to in your statement as - well, you 21 can see it was published on Monday, 8 April 1991, so the 22 same day that the advertisement was indicating that there 23 would be relevant protest action, in the Daily Telegraph 24 And we can see that it got prominent publicity, Mirror. 25 obviously enough, attracting a close to full-page front 26 page in that publication. And we can see I think perhaps 27 as a reflection of the strength of the protest, that would 28 be one way, perhaps, to look at it, but also the view of 29 those involved as wanting to attract attention to the roles of, as it was seen, of relevant institutions in what was 30 31 happening that targets of the protest with the red paint 32 included Parliament House, some of the churches, Downing 33 Centre local court, and indeed some of the media institutions as well. We see a reference, I think, to 34 Fairfax and Channel 10, amongst others, and in addition the 35 36 Department of Education. Is there anything further you 37 want to add to your evidence about the significance of this event in particular? 38 I remember when this happened and I remembered 39 Α. No. 40 the - not that I'm, you know, a supporter of defacing 41 public property, but I remember that something had to be You know, there had to be some sort of, you know, 42 done. 43 reminder that this violence is just basically, unbridled, 44 and that our public institutions are failing a significant 45 part of the community. 46 Just then in terms of the timing and chronology of 47 Q.

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1 events, bearing in mind that that protest action was 2 occurring on 8 April 1991, now I want to take you to some media that arose just a few days later, 14 April. 3 If we 4 can go to tab 70. Are you familiar with this article, 5 Mr Callaghan? I think you refer in your statement as being published in the Sun Herald, and as I said, 14 April 6 7 1991, and it is, as you can see, in effect a full page 8 fairly prominent article in the paper. Are you familiar 9 with that? 10 Α. I beg your pardon? Could you repeat the question? 11 Are you familiar with this article? 12 Q. 13 Α. Yes, I am. Yes. 14 One of the notable things about it is that it brings 15 Q. 16 together, am I correct in saying this, a number of presumed 17 deaths and deaths at the time. And, indeed, it would appear to coincide quite neatly with a number of the deaths 18 that you subsequently wrote about in "Bondi Badlands"; is 19 20 that correct? 21 Α. That's correct. 22 We see, for instance, a reference to the death of Mr 23 Q. 24 Wavne Tonks, to Richard Johnson, Mr Maurice McCarty and if we go down a little further we see reference to Mr William 25 26 Allen, Mr Rattanajurathaporn, Mr John Russell, and the 27 disappearance of Mr Warren. And I think in the course of 28 your work, you looked quite closely at all of those 29 matters: is that correct? That's correct. 30 Α. 31 32 Do you see some significance to all of those matters Q. 33 being reported back then, in April 1991, in the one 34 article? Do you see some significance to that having 35 happened? 36 I'm sorry, I don't - I'm not clear. Α. 37 I guess what I am trying to understand, what I am 38 Q. seeing whether you can make any comment on, is whether 39 40 prior to this, do you know whether there had been some sort 41 of collective look through the media at a whole range of deaths as opposed to bashings? 42 43 You mean a kind of story that reported on a collection Α. 44 of murders in the one story? 45 46 Q. Yes. I think that there were, yes. I don't think 47 Α. Yes.

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this was by any means the first one. Certainly in the LGBT 1 2 media, and I'm sure that there would have been other 3 earlier pieces that would have mentioned collectively the 4 murders of not just one. In the case of Russell, the 5 murder of John Russell, it was only four months after the murder of Ross Warren. So news reports at that time would 6 7 have, just by, you know, diligent reporting, would have 8 mentioned these earlier, you know, the earlier cases. 9 However, some of the more substantive features like this 10 did report on the more recent at that time attacks. I note that O'Grady, who later became, I think, a Government MP is 11 also in this story as being a bashing victim. 12 13 14 Q. Yes, thank you. At that time in particular, April 1991, you appear to be - this is perhaps a - well, what 15 16 I am getting at is are we reaching what might be viewed as 17 the height of the violence that was occurring around this 18 time? 19 Well, I very much believe that the peak in the Α. 20 violence was between 1998 and around 1991, '92, into '92. 21 That's not to say that the violence went dramatically down 22 or went away after around maybe '93, '94, but certainly And I suspect there may have been a 23 there was a decline. 24 number of factors behind that, in the same way there are a number of factors that caused this kind of dramatic upsurge 25 26 in violence over that sort of four-year or five-year 27 period. 28 29 Q. All right. If I can come back to the issue we were looking at in terms of the red paint protest, in terms of 30 31 protest activity and action, proactive action that was 32 initiated within the LGBTIQ community, I would ask if 33 tab 81A, which was brought up earlier, could again be 34 brought up [SCOI.77517]. This is an article. I think I may have described it as May '91 earlier. 35 In fact, it is 36 17 April 1991, the Daily Telegraph Mirror. You might recall in Garry Wotherspoon's evidence, Mr Callaghan, he 37 referred to the Dykes on Bikes taking certain pro-active 38 action at the time. It would appear that this appears to 39 40 be an article that's consistent with what we heard from 41 Mr Wotherspoon earlier; is that the case? Yes, that's correct. 42 Α. 43 44 We have in that article, if we scroll down slightly, Q. some indication of that group, what is described as 45 46 "Lesbian Lobby Group Dykes on Bikes", at that stage engaging in a two-month-old street watch patrols on 47

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1 motorbikes or by foot that were helping police in a number 2 of arrests. This would appear to be an example of some of 3 the pro-activity that was being generated within the 4 community at the time; is that right? 5 Α. That's correct. It was community under siege. So 6 what you do when you're under siege is you look at ways of, 7 you know, protecting yourself. This story talks about the 8 Dykes on Bikes, but there were other - gay men were also -9 some - I know of one former police officer who was also 10 organising street patrols. It was a community living in fear, and I don't want to make it sound like we were 11 12 terrified to step out our front doors, it wasn't like that, 13 but there were self-defence classes happening through community groups that were very popular at the time. 14 15 16 Martial artists who were within the gay and lesbian 17 community at that time were organising for tutorials in 18 self-defence, so it was a community that wasn't necessarily 19 just being passive or on the other side getting angry and 20 splattering red paint or demonstrating along King Street, 21 Newtown, or in front of State Parliament. It was a 22 community that was looking after its own, but also looking 23 after, in practical ways, defending itself. 24 25 The gay gym, I remember the Fitness Exchange was 26 organising fitness classes with a black belt karate person, 27 you know, expert, so it was a community that was actually -28 it wasn't sort of on the back foot here. We were doing 29 stuff, trying to fight back and reduce this crime wave. 30 31 Then just to move from what we have been doing in the Q. 32 sense of looking at some of the more detailed matters that 33 were actually in the press over that period, late '80s, early '90s, if I can come back to your own work and 34 reporting on relevant matters, Mr Callaghan, you have 35 36 already told us how you attended the inquest that was held 37 by Deputy State Coroner Milledge in relation to Mr Warren, Mr Russell and also Mr Gilles Mattaini, and that your 38 attendance was part of - your work gave rise to the "Bondi 39 40 Badlands" book. Now, you make some observations in your 41 statement drawing on all of your experience in considering those deaths and their investigation about certain factors 42 43 that you draw some conclusions about in relation to being 44 common to instances of gay-hate violence. Can you tell us 45 about those. 46 The profile of gay-hate violence, you mean? Α. 47

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Q. 1 Yes. 2 Α. Well, the typical crime was - I'll start again, I beg 3 your pardon. 4 5 The trademark of these crimes was the cruel tormenting of the victim; the frenzied nature of these attacks. 6 The 7 unrelenting physical violence that the victims sustained. 8 9 One of the newspaper stories that you kindly put up 10 earlier referred to a "Clockwork Orange" style attack, you know, while I am loathe to refer to sort of something 11 12 from popular culture, it's not too far from the truth. These were - had all the hallmarks of gay - what we call 13 14 gay-hate crimes now, and a hate crime is just that. It is about sheer unbridled hate in which the victim is no longer 15 16 a human being, this is not a crime of passion, this is a 17 crime of hate, and it's where the perpetrators take 18 enjoyment out of extending the violence that they 19 perpetrate on victims and cruelly tormenting them, verbally 20 and physically. 21 22 Mr Callaghan, you refer in your statement to, in Q. 23 addition to the work you have done as a journalist and author, to some things that you did in 2017 in relation to 24 conducting some walks after being invited to do that by 25 26 ACON. Can you tell us about what you did in that respect 27 and why you did that. 28 I was contacted by ACON because they wanted to -Α. Yes. 29 so there were a number of things happening at the time. 30 31 The Scott Johnson investigation, there had been an 32 inquest in that year, too, earlier that year, which had 33 found that he was the victim; he had been murdered, 34 finally. But there were also - there was a new generation of people in the LGBT community who weren't aware of these 35 36 crimes, you know, across Sydney at the time, but 37 specifically at Bondi where there was also talk of establishing a memorial to the victims there. 38 So I was invited by ACON to lead walks around the Bondi Headland 39 40 and, you know, to be honest, I hate that place, I hate that 41 Headland and, you know, it's - you know, I took people 42 around because I thought --43 44 Just take your time, Mr Callaghan, please. Q. 45 Α. The younger LGBT community should be aware of what 46 went on here, that these people - lives should not be forgotten, and also, you know, there was starting to -47

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things were cranking up in the media as well. You know,
these things, unfortunately, come in cycles. You know, you
don't - things go quiet for a very long time and suddenly
something happens and, you know, these dreadful crimes are
in the media spotlight again. So there was a certain
something in the zeitgeist was happening at that time.

8 I wanted to, you know, share the stories of these people and the community at that time, and, you know what, 9 10 what was actually very rewarding was a lot of people who would come on those walks, not just younger members of the 11 LGBT community, but a lot of heterosexual people as well, 12 13 you know, who may have been locals and they knew what went 14 on there, or they wanted to, you know, find out, with 15 respect, what happened there. So, yeah, so I took those 16 You know, it was only three or four a year for - I walks. 17 think for about three or four years we were doing them, but 18 it's - you know, it's important that these crimes not be apart from the fact that they need to be investigated 19 20 properly, it's important that these crimes not be 21 forgotten, you know, it's...

23 Q. Thank you. There's one last matter I want to go to, 24 Mr Callaghan. Before I do that, just as a matter of 25 correction, I asked you a question early on about the, for want of a better term, the peak period of violence and if 26 27 I can put it this way, I think you might have misspoken 28 because you referred to a period 1998 through to 1991, 29 1992. I assume you were referring to 1988 to 1991 and 1992? 30 31 Α. I'm very sorry, yes. Yes, of course. I meant 1988 to 32 I'm very sorry, I got that date wrong, yeah. 1992.

Q. I just wanted to correct that for the record. Thank
you. The last matter I wanted to go to was your most
recent work in connection with the podcast. It has been
produced. That also goes by the name "Bondi Badlands"; is
that right?

39 A. That's right.

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41 Q. You referred to some of the additional work including some further interviews. Can I ask that tab 43 be brought 42 43 up on screen, please [SCOI.77379]. Some of those 44 interviews you have told us about included with it a former 45 police officer, and was this gentleman known by his 46 professional name, Senior Sergeant Mark Higginbotham; is 47 that right?

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1 Α. That's correct. 2 3 So in addition to the podcast, there were a couple of Q. 4 print stories that you have produced as a consequence of 5 interviewing Senior Sergeant Higginbotham; is that right? 6 That's correct. Α. 7 8 Q. The one that we have brought up on the screen is a 9 full page headline called: 10 01d beats of hate and horror 11 12 13 I wonder if we can just go up to capture the date. Could 14 I invite you, I am am sorry to do this on the run with you, Mr Callaghan, but to accept that it might be appropriate 15 16 that your statement be amended slightly just in this 17 respect, that this full-page article is dated 30-31 I think at paragraph 40 of your statement, it 18 October. 19 refers to it being the 29th, but I think we just have a 20 reversal of dates. There's been another article in this 21 statement that reads as being 30 to 31 but in fact was the 22 Would you accept that is an appropriate amendment to 29th. 23 make to your statement? I do. Just to clarify, yes. 24 So the heading is on the Α. 25 - I think it's on the wrong date. What happened was I did 26 a news story during the week which was on the front page. 27 Then, on the weekend, that following weekend, I did this 28 feature in the, you know, Weekend News Review section. So 29 they are actually two separate sections. One was a news story - in fact, I think there were three. 30 There was a 31 news story during the week, a news story in the paper on 32 the weekend and the feature. So what I've done here is 33 I've probably put the wrong heading against the dates, 34 So I accept that, in short, yes. veah. 35 36 Thank you. I know you touched on this part earlier, Q. 37 but you referred to two particular aspects of what Senior Sergeant Higginbotham was able to tell you as having 38 occurred in the early 1980s and I think, in particular, as 39 revealed in the podcast and in this article, around 1983 40 41 when Senior Sergeant Higginbotham was a very junior and a 42 very young officer in New South Wales. 43 44 To come back, the article will speak for itself, but 45 to come back to - can you take us back to that issue of the 46 experience that Senior Sergeant Higginbotham relayed to you concerning the occasion on which he arrested a perpetrator 47 .21/11/2022 (4) 242 G CALLAGHAN (Mr de Mars)

of gay-hate violence, and recount to us what the 1 2 consequences were for Senior Sergeant Higginbotham. 3 So Mark Higginbotham was pulling up in his Yes. Α. 4 police car with his colleague and a man was staggering 5 along the footpath, bloodied. He got out of his car, this was just in front of the station, and asked him what had 6 7 happened. He said he was bashed. He was - it was evident 8 he was gay and he had been gay-bashed, so Mark Higginbotham 9 and his partner drove around the local streets whereupon 10 they - sorry, they also took the victim with them, who was up to identifying his attacker. So they were able to 11 locate the attacker within streets of the police station. 12

14 They took the attacker back to the police station where Mark Higginbotham went through the processes of 15 16 arresting him, whereupon the senior detective at that time 17 came down and basically ripped into him and said, "What are 18 you doing, we don't rest poofter bashers." It was too 19 The arrest - the actual paperwork had been done, so late. 20 this young attacker was arrested, and, as a result of that, 21 Higginbotham suffered ostracism and prejudice at that 22 station which made his life very uncomfortable. It was he was basically labelled - well, in inverted commas, "a 23 24 fag sympathiser". Higginbotham is heterosexual, but any type of sympathy towards gay men at that time was just not 25 26 really on, at least at Darlinghurst Police Station. And 27 what Higginbotham witnessed at Centennial Park was not 28 police from one station, but a few stations, at least three 29 stations, in the inner city, at that time, attacking gay This was 1983. Not 1953. Not 1963. Not 1973. 30 men. This 31 was 1983, only six years before the murders at Bondi and 32 the murder wave across Sydney.

34 Q. Then just to go back to a couple of things Thank you. 35 in relation to Senior Sergeant Higginbotham, as well as being a serving member in Victoria, he is a qualified 36 lawyer and works in the Police Prosecutions area; is that 37 correct? 38

- That's correct. 39 Α.
- 40

33

13

In your statement you describe him as being the first 41 Q. police officer to come forward in relation to police 42 43 violence at the time, namely, the 1980s. Can I ask you 44 whether you attach any significance to the fact that, in 45 your understanding, he being the first officer to do so, 46 that he is someone who is presently in Victoria and not a currently serving member of the New South Wales Police? 47

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1 Α. The second part of the question I'm not clear, sorry, 2 can you repeat that? 3 4 Q. I guess what I'm coming to is in your experience or 5 understanding, can it be challenging for officers who are currently within the New South Wales Police Force to, in 6 7 effect, criticise its own conduct? 8 9 MR MYKKELTVEDT: I object to that, your Honour. The 10 question is far too broad and this witness is not the witness to give an understanding of what is or is not 11 challenging for New South Wales Police Force officers. 12 13 14 THE COMMISSIONER: I will allow that, but only in reference 15 to this witness's understanding. 16 17 MR MYKKELTVEDT: Yes, your Honour. 18 19 THE COMMISSIONER: If you have an understanding, 20 Mr Callaghan, that is one thing, if you don't, that's 21 another, but I will permit you to give your understanding. 22 Do you want the question asked again? 23 24 THE WITNESS: All I can say is that Higginbotham was the 25 first police officer to come out on the record as saying that police were involved in gay bashings. He, now, has 26 been working with the Victorian Police for some time. 27 He 28 suffered at the hands of other members of Darlinghurst 29 Police Station at that time. He left the New South Wales Police - I can't recall, I apologise, but quite a few years 30 ago and he established himself with the Victorian Police. 31 32 I think that's as much as I can say, really. 33 34 MR de MARS: Those are my questions. 35 THE COMMISSIONER: Did I understand you to say that was 36 37 the end of your questions? 38 MR de MARS: I'm sorry, I'm not sure if someone is waiting 39 40 for me. I am not currently receiving --41 THE COMMISSIONER: Just correct me if I am wrong, did I 42 43 overhear you to say a minute ago that that was the end of 44 your questions or have I misheard you? 45 46 MR de MARS: No, that is the end of the questions. Thank 47 you, Commissioner.

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THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Mr Mykkeltvedt, any questions? MR MYKKELTVEDT: No questions, thank you. THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Thank you. Mr Callaghan, you may be excused. Thank you very much for your attendance this afternoon. <THE WITNESS WAS RELEASED MS MELIS: Commissioner that concludes the evidence for Tomorrow the Inquiry will hear from today. Mr Brent Mackie, Mr Barry Charles and Mr Les Peterkin. THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Thank you very much. Then I will adjourn until tomorrow at 10.00 am. Thank you. AT 3.30 PM THE HEARING WAS ADJOURNED TO 10.00 AM ON TUESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2022 

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