

**2022 Special Commission of Inquiry  
into LGBTIQ hate crimes**

**Before: The Commissioner,  
The Honourable Justice John Sackar**

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

**On Wednesday, 23 November 2022 at 10.00am**

**(Day 6)**

**Counsel Assisting:**

**Mr Peter Gray SC (Senior Counsel Assisting)  
Ms Christine Melis (Counsel Assisting)  
Mr William de Mars (Counsel Assisting)  
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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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2 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Ms Melis. Ms Richards, you appear  
3 today for the New South Wales Police?  
4  
5 MS RICHARDS: Yes.  
6  
7 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Yes, Ms Melis.  
8  
9 MS MELIS: Thank you, Commissioner, and good morning. We  
10 are ready to call the first witness of the day,  
11 Mr Gary Cox.  
12  
13 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.  
14  
15 <GARY COX, affirmed [9:59 am]  
16  
17 <EXAMINATION BY MS MELIS  
18  
19 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Ms Melis.  
20  
21 MS MELIS: Q. What is your name?  
22 A. Gary Cox.  
23  
24 Q. And your occupation?  
25 A. I'm a management consultant for RPS Group.  
26  
27 Q. Thank you. Dr Cox, you have made a statement --  
28 A. Yes.  
29  
30 Q. -- to the Special Commission, signed and dated  
31 15 November 2022; is that correct?  
32 A. That's correct.  
33  
34 Q. I understand there is a slight amendment that needs to  
35 be made to paragraph 12 of your statement?  
36 A. That's correct.  
37  
38 Q. And that is with regards to the year that is referred  
39 there as "1993" in the last line of that paragraph?  
40 A. Yes.  
41  
42 Q. That should read "1983" is that correct?  
43 A. Yes, that's correct. 1983.  
44  
45 Q. Thank you.  
46  
47

1 MS MELIS: Commissioner, there is also just one small  
2 administrative error that I need to correct on the record  
3 in the statement.

4  
5 THE COMMISSIONER: Certainly.

6  
7 MS MELIS: That is with reference to paragraph 54, but on  
8 page 12 of the statement, there is a list of articles  
9 there, Commissioner. The third article from the bottom  
10 titled "Fear and Loathing As Violence Rife", it refers to  
11 the SCOI reference number there. The reference number  
12 there is incorrect. It should read SCOI.77411.

13  
14 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

15  
16 MS MELIS: Q. Dr Cox, you arrived in Australia from the  
17 UK in 1982?

18 A. Yes.

19  
20 Q. Counting backwards, you were about 23 years old at the  
21 time?

22 A. I was probably 22 at the time. I arrived in April  
23 1982.

24  
25 Q. When you arrived, you lived in Sydney?

26 A. Yes, that's right.

27  
28 Q. Did you engage in the gay scene in Sydney at that  
29 time?

30 A. Probably almost immediately, yes, that's right.

31  
32 Q. Can you just describe for us what the gay scene was  
33 like in Sydney in 1982?

34 A. Yes. So there were lots of clubs and bars on  
35 Oxford Street, but also in Newtown. As I'd been living in  
36 London, I could make a bit of a comparison. They were much  
37 more concentrated than the bars in London in terms of  
38 place, and one big difference is that Sydney didn't have  
39 any sort of mega clubs like Heaven in London, but there  
40 were lots of nightclubs that stayed open until 5 or 6 in  
41 the morning. Lots of pubs. I think one of the features of  
42 that first year was that venues were opening in some cases  
43 but not much closing. So there was a lot of change, and it  
44 was a very exciting place to be. And I was living in  
45 Surry Hills, so I didn't have to get the Tube anywhere; I  
46 just walked up the road and it was all there, you know.

1 Q. At that time had you been aware, or were you made  
2 aware, of violence against gay and lesbian people?

3 A. Not in 1982.  
4

5 Q. We can see from your statement that from the early  
6 1980s through to 2001, you have been involved in many  
7 LGBTIQ organisations in New South Wales?

8 A. Yes, that's right.  
9

10 Q. Can you remember what your first involvement was, in  
11 which organisation?

12 A. Well, in Sydney, I was very keen to get involved in  
13 the kind of political gay and lesbian community, because I  
14 had been in the UK, in Manchester, in London, and in - my  
15 first contact with the gay scene and the gay community was  
16 actually a newspaper that came out a monthly called  
17 Campaign. So I saw, in May, there was a rally at Ryde of  
18 all places to protest against the visit of Jerry Falwell  
19 from the United States. For those - it's a bit of ancient  
20 history here. Jerry Falwell was a TV evangelist and was  
21 extremely homophobic, the most extreme end of that. He was  
22 are a close confidant of Anita Bryant, who was also in that  
23 same sort of category. So he was visiting Sydney at the  
24 time, and so I went to this rally and suddenly I met lots  
25 of different people involved in some of the groups I  
26 mentioned, so the Gay Solidarity Group was a particular  
27 one, and then there was the Sisters of Perpetual  
28 Indulgence, but it was mainly the individuals. And  
29 immediately I got connected in, and I think the next week I  
30 went to a meeting of the Gay Solidarity Group.  
31

32 Q. Just in terms of that rally, can you just draw us a  
33 bit of a picture. Was it a well-attended rally?

34 A. There would have been about 100 or 200 people. No  
35 more than that.  
36

37 Q. And it was a peaceful rally?

38 A. Oh, absolutely, yeah. It may have been slightly  
39 noisy, but it was certainly peaceful. There was a bit of  
40 singing, I recall.  
41

42 Q. You say shortly after you arrived in Sydney, you  
43 established the University of Sydney Gay and Lesbian  
44 Collective?

45 A. Yes. My first job in Sydney was I was the welfare  
46 research officer of the Sydney University Students  
47 Representative Council, and though they - I think,

1 Mr Charles mentioned in his evidence the other day that  
2 there was a Gay Liberation Front group there in the early  
3 '70s. By the time I arrived there was nothing, so I set up  
4 that group and got some people like Garry Wotherspoon at  
5 that time.

6  
7 Q. Following that, in the following year, 1983 and 1984,  
8 you were involved in the Homosexual Law Reform Coalition?

9 A. Yes. So HLRC, if I can call it that, was an ad hoc  
10 organisation that was - it was set up around the time of  
11 the Club 80 raids in January 1983, really to lobby for a  
12 change in the Crimes Act, because as I am sure the Court  
13 knows, homosexuality at that time was a crime, or  
14 homosexual acts were a crime. So there was considered to  
15 be an opportunity because of the Anti-Discrimination Board  
16 Report in 1982 and the amendments to the  
17 Anti-Discrimination Act in 1983 with that new ground of  
18 homosexuality. There was a glaring anomaly, but that meant  
19 there was an opportunity. The thing about HLRC was that  
20 everyone was involved in it, so it was the Gay and Lesbian  
21 Counselling Service, there was the Gay Rights Lobby Group  
22 as it was called then, there was the Gay Solidarity Group,  
23 there was what was then called the Gay Mardi Gras. So  
24 everyone was involved in this, and we had meetings in  
25 actually at the counselling service's office in Holt Street  
26 in Surry Hills. It was an ad hoc group, but quite  
27 effective, I think.

28  
29 Q. Yes, and it contributed to the decriminalisation of  
30 male homosexuality --

31 A. That's right.

32  
33 Q. -- in 1984?

34 A. Yeah.

35  
36 Q. That's what its primary focus?

37 A. That was its primary focus, yeah.

38  
39 Q. Thank you. In 1984 and 1985, you were a founding  
40 member of the committee of the AIDS Council of New South  
41 Wales; is that right?

42 A. Yes, that's correct.

43  
44 Q. How did you become involved in that?

45 A. So the backdrop to that - oh, I should have mentioned  
46 about HLRC, the other group involved was Twenty10, the  
47 youth project. The backdrop to that was, I think, the

1 rising number of cases of AIDS, as it was called then.  
2 Also knowing the increase in AIDS in the United States, but  
3 also, I think the trigger point - and this is quite an  
4 important one for the actual subject of the Commission -  
5 was the Queensland babies case in probably October/November  
6 1984.

7  
8 Q. Yes. Could you please elaborate on that?

9 A. I think that's right. The Queensland babies case was  
10 three babies died in Queensland after having a blood  
11 transfusion from an infected, as they discovered, gay man  
12 who didn't know he was infected with AIDS - HIV/AIDS at the  
13 time. But that was kind of a cause célèbre. And it was  
14 really the start of what I would call the AIDS hysteria  
15 that certainly started at that time, in 1984, and went  
16 through the first half of 1985.

17  
18 So there was some meetings set up which I went to, in  
19 the similar way I went to the HLRC meetings, and there  
20 was - you know, you kind of put your hands up to be on an  
21 organising committee to set up this new organisation, which  
22 I did. There was a lot of work planning for big public  
23 meetings, which occurred at the Teachers Federation in  
24 Sussex Street, and there was a lot of work around  
25 mobilising the gay community at the time, which - like,  
26 that was what I was involved with. I think there were two  
27 main big public meetings around that time in 1985, to set  
28 the organisation up.

29  
30 Q. Following on in chronological order, from May 1988 to  
31 September 1989, you were firstly the president and then  
32 male co-convenor of the newly formed Gay and Lesbian Rights  
33 Lobby?

34 A. That's right.

35  
36 Q. And your co-convenor was Jane Clements; is that  
37 correct?

38 A. That's correct.

39  
40 Q. And it was in that capacity, of course, that you were  
41 involved in the development of the Streetwatch Project?

42 A. Yes.

43  
44 Q. We will go into some depth, Dr Cox, around Streetwatch  
45 in a moment. But first if I might just focus on the Gay  
46 and Lesbian Rights Lobby --

47 A. Yes.

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Q. -- because, again, you were at the head of that lobby when it first started. What was the motivation and aims of establishing that lobby at that time?

A. There was a change of government that - March 1998. So after quite a long year of Labor administration under Neville Wran and Barrie Unsworth, there was a change of government to Neville Wran - sorry, Nick Greiner. And there was a kind of concern and worry at that time that some of these sort of advances, particularly around the anti-discrimination legislation, might be rolled back or under threat. So there was a public meeting in Heffron Hall in Darlinghurst. It was a community meeting around about April or May of 1988, and I was elected by that meeting to be the president. It was going to be a revived Gay Rights Lobby, but that meeting changed the name to Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby as there was certainly a groundswell of interest by the lesbian community being involved. We elected a temporary committee to report back in three months. At that three-month stage, which I believe was sort of late August, we had a meeting at the Counselling Service Building in Holt Street, where we collected a new committee which had equal representation of men and women and two co-convenors, one being myself and, as you mentioned, Jane Clements was the female co-convenor.

Q. And it was entirely voluntary organisation?

A. Yes. I think it is important to point out we weren't some well-funded NGO. We didn't have any money, we weren't given any money, so it was just us. We were all very young. I think I was 29, but I may have been the oldest person in the organisation. So we were all very young, very eager, very committed, very thirsty for social change. I think that was the defining feature of us all.

Q. You say that in terms of the focus of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby at that time, violence against members of the LGBTIQ community soon became the primary issue of concern for the Lobby. Tell us how that became the primary issue of concern?

A. In the first days of GLRL, you know, May, June, et cetera, we drafted up an agenda of different subjects that we thought there needed to be action on. But what was emerging in 1988 was this issue of, you know, regular reports to - you know, regular knowledge of violence, particularly against gay men, I think - I don't know if it was exclusively. The first report I heard were of people

1 being attacked in Hyde Park. And then it seemed to change  
2 to being around the environs of Oxford Street,  
3 Crown Street. I heard people being chased by gangs of  
4 young - probably, you could say young boys, really. They  
5 were teenagers with baseball bats, that kind of thing. So  
6 that was the backdrop to it. I was attending with another  
7 member of the committee, the police liaison meeting.

8  
9 Q. Yes, thank you, and that's the next topic I want to  
10 take you to. Yes.

11 A. Yeah.

12  
13 Q. Can you tell us what that committee was.

14 A. Sorry?

15  
16 Q. Can you just firstly explain what the Police Gay and  
17 Lesbian Liaison Committee was?

18 A. It was established, I think, in 1984, though I may be  
19 wrong about the precise date, to really foster relations  
20 with the gay and lesbian community, to improve police  
21 relationships with the community, and to take up issues  
22 that affected our community. Now, it was chaired by the  
23 Anti-Discrimination Board and, at that time, when I was  
24 involved, it was chaired by Steve Mark because I think  
25 Carmel Niland had recently stepped down as - I think it was  
26 called president of the Anti-Discrimination Board. And  
27 Fred Miller was the person responsible as the key liaison  
28 person.

29  
30 Q. From the police?

31 A. Yeah, but it was attended by senior police officers,  
32 from memory about three, and then members of the gay and  
33 lesbian community, so there was myself, there was Murray  
34 McLachlan from the Mardi Gras and there may have been one  
35 or two other people. So I think one of the - looking at  
36 my - the newspaper reports that I submitted, the one that  
37 occurred at the beginning of, I think, 14 September --

38  
39 Q. Okay. We will go to those.

40 A. We will get to those, yep, okay.

41  
42 Q. We will get to those in just a moment, Dr Cox.

43 A. So it was a rising concern that violence against  
44 lesbians and gay men is seen to be the major issue. If I  
45 was to say the day I was elected in May 1988 that I was  
46 going to be the main concern of a GLRL over the next few  
47 years, I probably wouldn't have put it on the top of the

1 list, but it very, very quickly emerged as the main issue  
2 confronting our community and us personally, because we all  
3 knew people.

4  
5 Q. Yes. We are going to delve much more deeply into  
6 that.

7 A. Yes.

8  
9 Q. But just before we do, just for the record, I wanted  
10 to also note that in addition to being the author of "The  
11 Streetwatch Report, A Study Into Violence Against Lesbians  
12 and Gay Men", and that was published in 1990.

13 A. Yes.

14  
15 Q. You were also the author of "The Count & Counter  
16 Report: A Study Into Hate Related Violence Against Lesbians  
17 and Gays".

18 A. Yes.

19  
20 Q. Published in 1994?

21 A. That's correct.

22  
23 Q. From 1991 to 1995, you were a member of the committee  
24 of Sydney Pride?

25 A. Yes.

26  
27 Q. And for the latter of that period was its male  
28 co-president?

29 A. Yes.

30  
31 Q. And finally from 1996 to 2001, you were the director  
32 of the Sydney 2002 Gay Games?

33 A. That's correct.

34  
35 Q. Dr Cox, I now want to move to what you describe in  
36 your statement as a meeting you attended in September 1988  
37 of the Police Gay Lesbian Liaison Committee and what you  
38 say there about that particular meeting and what it led to.  
39 Can you describe for us, please, what happened at that  
40 meeting?

41 A. Yes. These events were about 30 years ago, but this  
42 meeting is crystal clear in my mind. It was in the  
43 afternoon. It was a sort of - it was either a Wednesday or  
44 Thursday afternoon. I went with someone from the  
45 committee, a woman from the committee, and when the  
46 meeting - I think the meeting hadn't really even started  
47 when I got the feeling, "These people are talking about me

1 and they don't realise I'm in the room." It was that kind  
2 of feeling. When I say "me", I mean my community. There  
3 was a conversation that was going on between the three  
4 senior police officers and Fred Miller about gay and  
5 lesbian violence in Sydney and I think - because I've been  
6 prompted by the Sydney Morning Herald report that I was  
7 quoted in about a week before this meeting, they were  
8 obviously referring to the fact there was a press report.  
9

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. And what they were saying was that these reports  
12 hadn't come to them; therefore, they weren't happening.  
13

14 Q. Well, we might --

15 A. And so --  
16

17 Q. Sorry, Dr Cox.

18 A. Yes, sure?  
19

20 Q. We might just bring up that report while you are  
21 talking about. It is tab 78 [SCOI.77306]. This is the  
22 article you are speaking of, Dr Cox?

23 A. Should be. Yeah, that's right. Thursday 15th, yeah.  
24

25 Q. September 15, 1988, where - so you are saying that  
26 this article came out prior to the meeting --

27 A. This was prior to the meeting.  
28

29 Q. -- you were just talking about, and you are quoted  
30 there in this article as co-convenor of the lobby, saying  
31 that police statistics on bashings of homosexuals were  
32 inadequate because many victims were afraid to report the  
33 incidents?

34 A. Yeah. So this was the nub of the problem as I saw it.  
35 So I think this was playing on my mind in the lead-up to  
36 that meeting at College Street, that Wednesday or Thursday  
37 afternoon, when not only were they denying that these  
38 reports were valid, but they were also joking about, "Oh,  
39 the problem is the gays bashing up themselves", which was a  
40 bit of an odd comment to make, I thought. So what happened  
41 after the meeting - as I say, it is very clear in my mind.  
42 So the meeting was at College Street. I was living in east  
43 Sydney, so it was a 10-minute walk. And during that  
44 10-minute walk, the formation of the Streetwatch Project  
45 came in to my head as clear - I can only describe it as  
46 standing on the top of the mountain on a clear, clear blue  
47 day, and seeing everything you needed to see. It was just

1 very clear in my mind. And just to remind the court, these  
2 were the days when you didn't have mobile phones or  
3 computers or internet, or anything like that. So I went  
4 home, we had a meeting that evening at the Mardi Gras  
5 workshop of the committee, the GLRL committee. So I wrote  
6 the whole project out on two sides of foolscap paper so I  
7 could photocopy it and hand it out to people at the  
8 committee. So in my professional life today, I would never  
9 do anything like that; we would have some complicated  
10 co-design process. But I put it all down. The thing was I  
11 knew we needed evidence, you know? No accurate statistics  
12 were kept. We needed evidence, and we couldn't rely on the  
13 police to provide that - or anyone else, come to that  
14 matter. We had to do it ourselves. I'd been a volunteer  
15 in London on the London Gay Switchboard, so I knew that  
16 that similar organisation could both handle reports and  
17 were capable of dealing with any kind of emotional issues  
18 that people had as well. So that was the reason why I  
19 selected the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service and  
20 Lesbian Line to be the key data collection point.

21

22 Q. I see. I understand. We will talk a bit more about  
23 the methodology of the report, but from what you're telling  
24 us, Dr Cox, is it fair to say that coming out of that  
25 meeting, the Police Gay and Lesbian Committee meeting, you  
26 felt that there was a sense of urgency to collecting this  
27 data?

28 A. Yes.

29

30 Q. Just before we leave this article at tab 78, I just  
31 want to highlight for the Inquiry, there Mr Fred Miller is  
32 saying that:

33

34 *... the police had not had a complaint*  
35 *about such bashings in the past nine months*  
36 *in the Paddington-Moore Park area, and none*  
37 *had been received in recent months from the*  
38 *Newtown area.*

39

40 And that becomes significant, doesn't it, Dr Cox --

41 A. That's right.

42

43 Q. -- in a moment, when we actually go and look at what  
44 the statistics were telling us?

45 A. Yeah.

46

47 Q. I want to take you to some further articles for the

1 contemporaneous articles --

2 A. Yes, certainly.

3

4 Q. -- during this period but the data that was collected  
5 for the Streetwatch project was collected between the  
6 months of November 1988 and April 1989?

7 A. That's correct.

8

9 Q. As you have just mentioned, the Lesbian Line and the  
10 Gay Counselling Service were the modes by which people  
11 could ring up and this survey would be - a survey would be  
12 administered to them?

13 A. Yes. To be clear about that, it was a little bit  
14 more - I think it is important to see the whole project in  
15 context. We realised that we needed to do quite  
16 significant advertising and promotion around this. So the  
17 Anti-Discrimination Board gave us a grant of \$500. We got  
18 a similar amount from the Mardi Gras. We got some value in  
19 kind, actually, from - I think it was Village Voices, it  
20 was called in those days. But we needed to do a big  
21 campaign, a poster campaign. We put posters up in bars,  
22 all that kind of thing. We had to get it out there that  
23 people could contact those two organisations and make a  
24 report. So that was a key element of it, as was the  
25 mainstream media campaign that - mainly, I went through  
26 John Stapleton at the Sydney Morning Herald. So they were  
27 all key elements of the whole project.

28

29 Q. Just to put again another factor for context, you  
30 received 67 responses --

31 A. That's correct.

32

33 Q. -- to that period of data collection? 63 from men and  
34 four from women?

35 A. Yes.

36

37 Q. Could we please bring up tab 67. Dr Cox, taking you  
38 back in time here, this is an article from the Sydney  
39 Morning Herald dated 28 October 1988?

40 A. Yes.

41

42 Q. And that is your young self?

43 A. That's my young self, looking a lot thinner.

44

45 Q. And a Sergeant Gately?

46 A. Yes, that's correct.

47

- 1 Q. I understand from the article he was from the Police  
2 Liaison Unit. And you are being photographed there at a  
3 Moore Park lavatory block?  
4 A. That's correct, yes.  
5
- 6 Q. And this particular block at Moore Park was a  
7 well-known meeting place --  
8 A. Yes, that's correct.  
9
- 10 Q. -- for gay men? And we're told that inside there were  
11 words graffiti, "Slave wants Master"?  
12 A. Yeah.  
13
- 14 Q. And next to this, "Poofs are dead"?  
15 A. That's right.  
16
- 17 Q. And, outside, in capital letters, "BEWARE BASHERS"?  
18 A. Yes.  
19
- 20 Q. We can see another sign there as well, "DANGER  
21 BASHERS". And this report, being October 1988, the  
22 Streetwatch data collection process had not even yet begun?  
23 A. Yes. So this article essentially was a kind of launch  
24 article because I think the project was launched the  
25 following week.  
26
- 27 Q. Yes. Within it, we see that - we're told in that  
28 first column:  
29
- 30 *In the last three weeks a man has been*  
31 *attacked on Oxford Street and later*  
32 *admitted to hospital with a broken pelvis,*  
33 *while another had his arm broken in three*  
34 *places. In Newtown, a gay man was attacked*  
35 *by two skinheads and left with two black*  
36 *eyes, abrasions and an injured neck.*  
37
- 38 *But before these, only 11 bashings had been*  
39 *reported to police since January - seven in*  
40 *Moore Park, two in Green Park,*  
41 *Darlinghurst, and two in Rushcutters Bay*  
42 *Park. [Both] police and [groups like the*  
43 *Gay and Lesbian Right Lobby] agree that*  
44 *many bashings at any time of the year go*  
45 *unreported.*  
46
- 47 A. Yes.

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Q. So this is again highlighting that need to - well, for people to report and to gather some statistics about what is happening?

A. Yes. And I think, as is well demonstrated by John Stapleton's articles, these are kind of quite horrific incidents. They weren't sort of people being pushed around on the street. They were quite - there was a lot of intent behind the hate crime.

Q. Yes. I just want to, if I may, Dr Cox --

A. Yes.

Q. -- read the words as you said them in this article.

A. Yes, yes.

Q. You say in relation to the question, "What motivates the gay bashers?":

*Mr Cox said he knew of no studies about it, "but raping a lesbian is seen as an accolade in terms of sexual prowess.*

*"Many members of teenage gangs are insecure about their own sexuality, which is probably the major reason for assaults on gay men. You are seen as a real man if you go out and bash a poofter," said Mr Cox.*

*"Gays are one of the most hated sections of the community. While racist comments are no longer socially acceptable, derogatory comments about gays still get widespread approval."*

*He says every gay man and lesbian knows the fear of being bashed, the fear of walking home, alone or in groups, and the degradation of being taunted from cars or by passers-by.*

*Many also know what it is also like to covered their bloodstained and distraught friends after a bashing.*

Dr Cox, you say there that you are not aware of any studies about the motivation behind these bashings, and you go on

1 to give your opinion about that?

2 A. Yes.

3

4 Q. How was your opinion formulated at that time?

5 A. It was formulated through lots of discussions with  
6 peers, basically. Both in Australia and with friends in -  
7 it was a problem in the UK as well, and also the United  
8 States. These were formed through discussions we had from  
9 views and opinions that people formed about what was going  
10 on. So it was certainly a common, if not widespread view,  
11 in the gay and lesbian community, these two themes that are  
12 mentioned in John Stapleton's article.

13

14 Q. Thank you. If I can now take you to tab 123  
15 [SC0I.76950]. Dr Cox, this is an article from the Star  
16 Observer dated 11 November 1988.

17 A. Yes.

18

19 Q. And it reports on the launch of Streetwatch, as you  
20 have previously mentioned --

21 A. Yes.

22

23 Q. -- which occurred on 4 November at the Performance  
24 Space in Redfern?

25 A. Yes.

26

27 Q. Sorry, it is a little bit of a difficult article to  
28 read in that the second page goes over. I think we have  
29 the second page as well. You're quoted there - there you  
30 are there again with Clover Moore and what was Clover  
31 Moore's position at that time?

32 A. She was the state member for Bligh.

33

34 Q. And John Fowler, who is he?

35 A. John Fowler was - now, he was a counsellor on South  
36 Sydney Council. He then became Mayor of South Sydney. I  
37 would struggle to know exactly what his political position  
38 was at the time, but he was probably a councillor at that  
39 time.

40

41 Q. Sorry, if we can just go back to that first page. In  
42 that second column, you are quoted as saying:

43

44 *What does exist, insists Mr Cox, is a*  
45 *massive amount of personal experience of*  
46 *violence which should be put on the record.*

47

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2
- 3 Q. And that was essentially the aim of Streetwatch?
- 4 A. That was the aim, yes. It was provide an evidence
- 5 base and a baseline of data as well.
- 6
- 7 Q. I would like you to explain for us something that is
- 8 referred to here, and that is a problem around
- 9 Oxford Street which is referred to as a "border dispute",
- 10 do you see that in the second column?
- 11 A. Yes, okay.
- 12
- 13 Q. Can you just explain that to us, as it becomes
- 14 relevant later?
- 15 A. The boundary between the two police stations,
- 16 Kings Cross and Surry Hills, was down the middle of
- 17 Oxford Street, and my recollection at the time is that
- 18 Surry Hills Police wouldn't patrol the north side and
- 19 Kings Cross Police wouldn't patrol the south side. It was
- 20 obviously the epicentre of a lot of the problems we were
- 21 talking about, so this was kind of a major issue.
- 22
- 23 Q. Thank you. And just finally, or nearly finally, one
- 24 further article in around this time is tab 65 [SC0I.76857].
- 25 This is an article in the Sydney Morning Herald that the
- 26 Inquiry has already been taken to, but I would also like to
- 27 take you to, Dr Cox.
- 28 A. Yes.
- 29
- 30 Q. It is dated 17 December 1988, and for context, it has
- 31 now been about a month into the data collection for
- 32 Streetwatch.
- 33 A. Certainly our intervention initiating Streetwatch was
- 34 timely, because it was certainly seen to be the case at the
- 35 time that there was a rising tide of violence in the inner
- 36 city of Sydney, and this quite comprehensive depiction of
- 37 recent cases of violence demonstrated that. When I went to
- 38 see my doctor around this time in December, he said to me,
- 39 "You are frightening my patients." I mean, it was very
- 40 frightening to actually have this displayed in this way,
- 41 but my comment to him, as far as I remember at the time,
- 42 was, you know, "This is what is happening, and we need to
- 43 stop this happening."
- 44
- 45 Q. And we can see from the details in this report that
- 46 nearly 30 violent attacks on homosexuals in Sydney had been
- 47 reported --

- 1 A. Yes.  
2
- 3 Q. -- to the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service? And  
4 that was through their administration of the Streetwatch  
5 survey?  
6 A. That's correct. So Jane Clements was reporting on  
7 what we understood to be the numbers at the time. I think  
8 the female number was probably wrong, but this is what the  
9 counselling service said was the reports.  
10
- 11 Q. Yes. I think Jane Clements is quoted as saying that  
12 Streetwatch had received reports of attacks on 22 men and  
13 six women .  
14 A. Yeah. But we were - we did quite a blanket publicity  
15 with those posters and the ads in the paper, so this was  
16 consistent with our understanding that there was a lot of  
17 unreported cases happening. And, you know - so that was --  
18
- 19 Q. And just in this period of about a month of surveys  
20 being administered and responses taken, it showed that:  
21  
22 *The attackers were in groups of up to 12*  
23 *males, often teenagers. Most attacks*  
24 *occurred in streets or parks, and some in*  
25 *railway stations. Two danger areas were*  
26 *Moore Park and King Street, Newtown.*  
27  
28 *Newly all the victims were certain they had*  
29 *been attacked as homosexuals or lesbians,*  
30 *because the attackers called them names*  
31 *such as "poofter", "dyke", "[fag]"...*  
32
- 33 Sorry, I can't read that word. My apologies.  
34  
35 *... and "leso".*  
36
- 37 A. Yes, they are all charming expressions.  
38
- 39 Q. Sorry, the word I can't read is "rot"?  
40 A. Yeah.  
41
- 42 Q. I take it then that even in a short period of time of  
43 a month, you had - you were developing a picture --  
44 A. Yes.  
45
- 46 Q. -- of what the violence was looking like on the  
47 streets and other places?

1 A. And, you know, it was a terrifying picture. I think  
2 it demonstrated that their action was needed, and our  
3 strategy in GLRL to get this publicised in the mainstream  
4 media was particularly to engage the politicians and the  
5 senior members of the Police Service.  
6

7 Q. Yes. Of course, at this time, running simultaneously  
8 was the AIDS - HIV/AIDS epidemic, and, as you said  
9 earlier --

10 A. Yes.

11  
12 Q. -- and the hysteria around that. And this  
13 article also picks up on that, saying:

14  
15 *Dislike of homosexuals is compounded by a*  
16 *fear of being infected by AIDS.*  
17

18 A. Yes. If I can go back to the atmosphere, which I  
19 would describe as febrile or feverish, in the first part of  
20 1985 when I was on the Mardi Gras Committee, and there were  
21 reports in the tabloid press and front page saying,  
22 "Mosquitos carry AIDS". There were all sorts of hysterical  
23 stories, which made Dave Penington from the AIDS Task Force  
24 issue some press releases around transmission, but I think  
25 what was happening was definitely connected with the  
26 HIV/AIDS situation and the hysteria around it. I mean, I  
27 sometimes like to characterise it in the following way.  
28 There was a kind of - the stage was the embedded  
29 discrimination, hostility, prejudice, stereotypes against  
30 gays and lesbians, but then there was a backdrop of  
31 HIV/AIDS and the kind of hysteria and ignorance and blame  
32 around that. So that was the kind of perfect storm of what  
33 we were seeing in 1988.  
34

35 Q. And just finally before I take you to the Streetwatch  
36 Report, just one further article. This is at tab 64,  
37 please [SC0I.76891]. This is an article again from the  
38 Sydney Morning Herald dated 10 April 1989.

39 A. Yes.

40  
41 Q. And this is a period, a point in time, where the  
42 Streetwatch data collection is coming to a close?

43 A. Yes.

44  
45 Q. It ended at the end of April; is that right?

46 A. Yes. So it was a six-month project, largely because  
47 we didn't want to make more demands on the two counselling

- 1 organisations.
- 2
- 3 Q. Yes.
- 4 A. And we wanted to get a report out as well.
- 5
- 6 Q. In anticipation of that, it appears that Fred Miller,  
7 again, from the Police Gay Liaison Unit, was announcing the  
8 establishment for another police hotline for the homosexual  
9 victims of gang bashings?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11
- 12 Q. And I take it, or correct me if I am wrong, is it your  
13 understanding that this was to occur essentially on the  
14 back of Streetwatch, the Streetwatch survey, completing and  
15 then a hotline being set up subsequent to that?
- 16 A. They had had these kind of hotlines in the past.
- 17
- 18 Q. Yes.
- 19 A. And I think I refer to them in the written evidence.  
20 And I think the first one was really initiated by the  
21 Anti-Discrimination Board regarding their 1992 report,  
22 which they asked people to call in. And that did pick up a  
23 background of violence, assaults, at that time. So they  
24 did these short burst hotlines over a weekend.
- 25
- 26 Q. Over a weekend, was it?
- 27 A. Yeah. They did this over, I think, a few days as  
28 well.
- 29
- 30 Q. The articles refers --
- 31 A. Or 24 hours, they're saying here.
- 32
- 33 Q. Yes. The article refers to previous hotlines in 1985  
34 and 1986?
- 35 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 36
- 37 Q. The article itself also notes that:
- 38
- 39 *Last October, Sydney's homosexual community*  
40 *began a five-month street-watch program to*  
41 *monitor offences against gays. Since*  
42 *November 1988, 39 assaults have been*  
43 *reported to the police.*
- 44
- 45 A. Right.
- 46
- 47 Q. Dr Cox, we know you had 67 responses --

1 A. Yes.

2

3 Q. -- to the survey for Streetwatch. Do we take it then  
4 that at this point in time, over half of those responses  
5 were being reported to police?

6 A. Well, I think the - I can't corroborate this newspaper  
7 report, but in the Streetwatch Report itself we do indicate  
8 that some of the incidents were reported to the police, and  
9 there's further questions about what kind of service they  
10 had from the police itself, and also comparing it with if  
11 they went to the hospital, medical services, comparing it  
12 with the service they got from the health service here.

13

14 Q. Yes. Do you think one of the other consequences of  
15 the Streetwatch campaign was encouraging people to report  
16 to police?

17 A. Well, that was a stated aim. I mean, we wanted people  
18 to report to the police and for the police to act on those  
19 reports. So it was as simple as that. We didn't want to  
20 be dealing with the incidents ourselves. We wanted those  
21 incidents to go through the proper channels, the police and  
22 the health service and victims compensation, et cetera.

23

24 Q. Were you, or somebody else, relaying the data as it  
25 was coming in to police?

26 A. I don't think we were, on a case-by-case, because I  
27 think that wasn't the understanding that we had with  
28 participants in that survey. The idea was that it was  
29 going to be - you know, we didn't take names and addresses  
30 of people. It was a confidential survey. We knew there  
31 were issues around people reporting, per se. So that was  
32 how we structured it.

33

34 Q. The Streetwatch Report was launched in April 1990 by  
35 the then Minister for Police and Emergency Services, The  
36 Hon Ted Pickering?

37 A. Yes.

38

39 Q. You describe this as being a significant event. Why?

40 A. Okay. Because he was the Minister responsible,  
41 essentially, but the background to that was that we were  
42 keen to get action from the highest level of police, which  
43 is the Minister. The local member, Clover Moore, was very  
44 instrumental in alerting the Minister to the issues. They  
45 have a very good working relationship. I recall one Friday  
46 night she took him round various what you might call hot  
47 spots in her electorate, and they had a very cooperative

1 relationship. I note Clover Moore at the time was very  
2 interested in the concept of community policing, and some  
3 of those initiatives I've described in the evidence I've  
4 submitted that we, as an organisation, thought should be  
5 instigated.

6  
7 Q. Yes. And they were some of the recommendations that  
8 came out of the report?

9 A. That's right. Things like foot patrols and things  
10 like that.

11  
12 Q. Yes. We'll go to those as well in due course. We  
13 might bring up the report now --

14 A. Yes.

15  
16 Q. -- and go through it. We can find the report at  
17 tab 22, [SCOI.76806]. This is the front cover of the  
18 report.

19 A. This is the front cover, yes.

20

21 Q. If we could please - well, we might actually first go  
22 to page 4 of that report. Just to set out a little bit  
23 here the methodology, as you have already said, Dr Cox, the  
24 survey was administered through the Gay and Lesbian  
25 Counselling Service and Lesbian Lines?

26 A. Yes.

27

28 Q. There was also a special phone-in radio programme  
29 "Gaywaves" on 2SER FM?

30 A. Yes.

31

32 Q. And you, yourself, wrote the report?

33 A. Yes.

34

35 Q. If we could please turn to page 11 with the heading  
36 "BACKGROUND".

37 A. Yes, thank you.

38

39 Q. I just wanted to take you to this page, Dr Cox, to  
40 highlight, as you say, that Streetwatch was not the first  
41 study of violence and abuse against lesbian and gay men in  
42 New South Wales. There was also the "Homosexual Phone-In"  
43 in February 1980 that was conducted by the New South Wales  
44 Anti-Discrimination Board, as well as the findings of the  
45 Anti-Discrimination Board's survey are contained in its  
46 seminal report: "Discrimination and Homosexuality", 1982.  
47 And throughout the Streetwatch Report, you make reference

1 to the findings of the Anti-Discrimination Report --

2 A. Yes.

3

4 Q. -- and make comparison with that and the findings of  
5 Streetwatch. And the other sources of information that you  
6 also make comparisons with, and refer to in the report, are  
7 information from the Anti-Discrimination Board and police  
8 hotlines?

9 A. Yeah.

10

11 Q. Which were the ones we were just discussing, I take  
12 it?

13 A. That's right.

14

15 Q. That took place in 1985, 1986 and 1989, and also one  
16 in Wollongong in 1989. Just turning to page 12 now, to the  
17 table at the bottom, just again confirming here, Dr Cox,  
18 that you received 67 responses, 63 responses through the  
19 Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service and four through  
20 Lesbian Line?

21 A. Yes, that's right.

22

23 Q. Just going over the page now, you observe here in  
24 Table 3 that with respect to advertising, the Star Observer  
25 was the most consistent in advertising Streetwatch; is that  
26 right?

27 A. So this question was, "Where did you hear of the  
28 Streetwatch campaign?" So most people heard it through the  
29 newspaper. So what I like to do is get a full page ad on  
30 the back of the newspaper, so that it grabbed people's  
31 attention.

32

33 Q. Yes. We note from the previous table that there were  
34 only four responses --

35 A. Yes.

36

37 Q. -- by women through Lesbian Line. Why do you think  
38 the number was so low?

39 A. We discussed this a lot in the committee meetings. It  
40 was - yeah, it was - we did need to do a targeted survey, I  
41 think, to establish the confidence of that particular part  
42 of our community, and that was obviously done with Off Our  
43 Backs. I think possibly in the way that we portrayed it,  
44 particularly through the media, it may have resonated more  
45 as a gay-male issue. But it was something we were very  
46 concerned about. We did sort of scratch our heads a bit  
47 about it, because I think given that there was 50 per cent

1 women on the committee, you know, their experience and  
2 knowledge was that, yes, it was a problem, so - and I think  
3 when you look at the kind of different - the different  
4 nature of the violence against women, there was a lot -  
5 there was a lot of abuse in the workplace, there was issues  
6 around the home, people they knew. It was slightly  
7 different to the kind of street crime issue that men were  
8 facing.

9  
10 Q. And the Inquiry will hear further evidence in relation  
11 to the Off Our Backs Report.

12 A. Yes.

13  
14 Q. But just to note for the purposes of Streetwatch, as  
15 you have written here, because of the low number, if we can  
16 just scroll down a little bit --

17  
18 *... a clear picture of the nature of the*  
19 *problem amongst lesbians has not been*  
20 *obtained.*

21  
22 A. Yes, I think that's correct, yeah.

23  
24 Q. Going on, just building on this picture, if you go to  
25 the next page, page 14, this table, table 4, shows us the  
26 home suburb of the respondent. If we can scroll down a  
27 little bit more. Thank you. We can see there that about  
28 33 per cent of respondents were from the suburbs of  
29 Darlinghurst and Newtown?

30 A. Yes.

31  
32 Q. And that wasn't surprising to you?

33 A. No, because in those days, rents weren't as high, and  
34 people in the gay and lesbian community tended to live in  
35 those districts. So that wasn't surprising.

36  
37 Q. But we can see there that certainly there were  
38 responses from all over?

39 A. Yes.

40  
41 Q. Suggesting that violence against gay and lesbians was  
42 a more widespread problem?

43 A. Yes. Remember this is the place of residence. So,  
44 you know, people from all over came to Oxford Street and  
45 the bars in Newtown, et cetera.

46  
47 Q. Turning over the page to page 15, these tables, Tables

1 5 and 6, describe for us the types of injuries sustained by  
2 respondents, and 73 per cent of respondents sustained  
3 physical injury. We can see that in Table 5. And about  
4 just under 30 per cent did not receive a physical injury.  
5 At the bottom of that page, we see that the head was  
6 injured in over 80 per cent of the physical injuries. If  
7 we can just go to the next page, we can see the table  
8 there --

9 A. Yes.

10

11 Q. -- of the places, the parts of the body that were  
12 injured. That's quite a high proportion of respondents  
13 sustaining injury to the head.

14 A. Yes. I suppose people would be punched in the face,  
15 that kind of thing. Or struck on the face. It may not  
16 have been sort of serious, but they'd be struck on the  
17 face. That was generally the target, I suppose.

18

19 Q. Just scrolling down on page 16, just noting there at  
20 Table 8, we note here some other key indicators as to the  
21 motivation of the attack, and you note there that robbery  
22 was a component of about 15 cases. Do you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24

25 Q. And verbal abuse was also indicated in about 32 cases?

26 A. Yes.

27

28 Q. With respect to time and location --

29 A. Yes.

30

31 Q. -- I want to take you to that now. Still staying on  
32 that page, but scrolling down, 52 per cent of attacks  
33 occurred in the street, you say, and a further 27 per cent  
34 took place in parks and 28 per cent occurred in beats. If  
35 we go over page, we can see that tabulated there at  
36 Table 9. The violence is occurring predominantly on the  
37 streets; that's right, Dr Cox?

38 A. Yes.

39

40 Q. Scrolling down the page on page 17, I just wanted to  
41 take you to the figure there of 53 per cent of reports of  
42 attacks at beats were at Moore Park?

43 A. Yes.

44

45 Q. Do you see that?

46 A. Yes.

47

- 1 Q. And if we go over to page 19, we can see that there.  
2 We can see Moore Park (not specific), Moore Park North and  
3 Moore Park South; is that right?  
4 A. Yes.  
5  
6 Q. That makes up the number?  
7 A. Yes.  
8  
9 Q. With the "(not specific)", what is meant by that, as  
10 in the actual --  
11 A. I suppose when they recorded it - you see, when I -  
12 because I processed all the data. I was given a pile of  
13 survey forms, so it was whatever was written on the form.  
14 So it may have just been "Moore Park" or they may have been  
15 more specific which north and south is.  
16  
17 Q. And of course we know that Moore Park was a  
18 well-known --  
19 A. Well, to take you back to the photograph.  
20  
21 Q. -- gay beat at that time?  
22 A. Yes.  
23  
24 Q. You further crunch the numbers to report on the day of  
25 the week --  
26 A. Yes.  
27  
28 Q. -- that violence occurred. If you can just scroll  
29 down to Table 12, what was the data telling you, Dr Cox,  
30 about the day of the week?  
31 A. Well, it was telling us that, you know, when gay men  
32 and lesbians were going out, Thursday, Friday, Saturday,  
33 Sunday, it tended to attract perpetrators of violence. I  
34 mean, a lot of this sort of taking the data apart for place  
35 and time and day was really to say this kind of information  
36 can inform policing practices in a community policing  
37 model, ie, foot patrols.  
38  
39 Q. Yes. Again on page 20, the time of the day was also  
40 reported upon. And again, Dr Cox, can you just summarise  
41 for us what the data was telling you.  
42 A. Yeah, it was sort of confirming what we knew from  
43 anecdotal evidence, that a lot of it was related to where  
44 gay men, particularly in this context, were at different  
45 times of the day, in terms of being at, say, pubs and  
46 clubs. So 12 midnight to 3.00 am. People were either  
47 leaving a pub and going to a club or leaving a club. You

1 know, that kind of thing. It was people on the move.  
2  
3 Q. Yes. As you say, 63 per cent of incidents occurred  
4 between the hours of 9 pm and 3 am?  
5 A. Yeah. And none of it surprised us. This kind of  
6 profile didn't surprise us in any way.  
7  
8 Q. I just want to take you to a couple more results here.  
9 At page 23, you looked at the use of weapons.  
10 A. Yes.  
11  
12 Q. In a large number, 83 per cent of cases, there were no  
13 weapons used; rather, fists and feet?  
14 A. Fists and feet, yes.  
15  
16 Q. At page 24, at the bottom, you report on the  
17 characteristics of the survivors?  
18 A. Yes.  
19  
20 Q. With 80 per cent reporting being Caucasian or  
21 Australian and about 8 per cent as European. If we go over  
22 the page again to Table 23, the age of the survivors, 72  
23 per cent of them were aged between 25 and 39? Yes?  
24 A. Yes, that's correct.  
25  
26 Q. In terms of the characteristics of assailants, we can  
27 see there at Table 24 that in a vast majority, 94 per cent  
28 of cases, they were all males?  
29 A. Yep.  
30  
31 Q. But there were some cases, four cases, where there  
32 were both males and females?  
33 A. Yes. So when there was a mixed group, it tended to be  
34 a gang situation and probably younger people as well.  
35  
36 Q. If we go over the page to page 26, we can see the  
37 approximate ages of the assailants. And I take it these  
38 approximate ages were guesses of the survivors?  
39 A. It's a subjective view, yes. In some cases, they were  
40 obviously quite young, you know, some of them.  
41  
42 Q. Again, we see higher figures between 16 and 25?  
43 A. Yeah.  
44  
45 Q. Concentrating now on what you just mentioned, "gangs"  
46 --  
47 A. Yes.

- 1  
2 Q. -- you reported on that under the heading "Number of  
3 assailants" on that same page, page 26. Dr Cox, can you  
4 again describe to us what the data was telling you about  
5 the number of assailants in cases?  
6 A. Okay. I think it was largely groups, so gangs,  
7 particularly around three to four, but they were gangs of  
8 more than that. Where they were larger groups, they tended  
9 to be younger groups as well. So there was that kind of  
10 correlation, really.  
11  
12 Q. I just want to also touch upon post-assault action.  
13 A. Yes.  
14  
15 Q. In particular, reports being made to police. If we  
16 could please go to page 31 of the report, you summarise  
17 there under "SUMMARY" that:  
18  
19 *The most common action taken by assault*  
20 *survivors was reporting to the police*  
21 *(48%).*  
22  
23 A. Yes.  
24  
25 Q. And:  
26  
27 *34% sought medical attention and 19%*  
28 *contacted friends.*  
29  
30 A. Yes.  
31  
32 Q. But:  
33  
34 *36% ... reported taking no action.*  
35  
36 What do you think was behind that figure of 36 per cent of  
37 respondents taking no action at all?  
38 A. Well, if it was - so, they weren't injured enough to  
39 go to hospital or see their doctor.  
40  
41 Q. Yes.  
42 A. So that, I think, is as much as you can say about it,  
43 because their reasons for not reporting to the police could  
44 be a number of reasons which are identified in the report  
45 as the incident not being taken seriously enough, there  
46 being kind of no point because the clear-up rates were  
47 poor, that kind of thing.

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Q. We can go to that table now over the page.

A. I think all you can say is that they didn't go to hospital because it wasn't serious enough, but the police matter, then you have to take a few steps further and say why.

Q. If we go over the page to page 32, respondents were asked for their reasons for not contacting the police. And as you have already mentioned, the main reason, or the greatest reason, seemed to be that they felt police would not be able to do anything.

A. Yes. So it is a very important consideration with this question. It was an open-ended question, so we didn't frame, you know, "Was it A, B or C?", we just asked the people in the counselling service to write down what they said, and we categorised the responses into these headings. So we tried to get what the person actually said if you know what I mean.

Q. If we go over the page, Table 40 details service and attention given by police?

A. Yes.

Q. So respondents, I take it, were asked to comment on whether the service they received was helpful or supportive and we can see there 56 per cent of cases, the response was that the service was friendly, helpful and supportive.

A. Yes.

Q. And 25 was routine, neutral or indifferent, with just over 18 per cent saying that it was the response was aggressive homophobic and unhelpful. Did these sorts of figures with respect to police engagement and response surprise you at all for the time?

A. No, I don't think they did, actually. It might have surprised me if the friendly, helpful support was up at 80 per cent, like the medical services were. I think that would have been a bit of a surprise, but I think everything we knew about the police at that time indicated that you're either going to get - you know, you could get a positive response, but it was - as the data says, it was about 50/50. The routine response was really, "Yeah, we'll go and get the form and fill the form in," type of response, I think.

Q. Yes. One further telling statistic that was gathered was what we find at Table 41.

1 A. Yes.

2

3 Q. And that is that over 71 per cent of respondents did  
4 not identify as lesbian or gay to police.

5 A. Yes, and that certainly didn't surprise me.

6

7 Q. Were respondents, again, asked a specific question as  
8 to why that was the case, or was that sort of wrapped up in  
9 the previous questions?

10 A. I think it was wrapped up in the table further up.  
11 But I think in the context of these instance not being  
12 taken as hate crime, as a group, it would mean that - why  
13 would you identify in this way?

14

15 Q. I think --

16 A. I think, by the way, there is a change in the Count &  
17 Counter data with this question.

18

19 Q. Yes, and we will go to that also. I am just going to  
20 leave the Streetwatch Report for a moment. Could we just  
21 bring up tab 123 again, please [SC0I.76950\_0001]. If we  
22 scroll down, this is the "Stop the Bashers" article that I  
23 took you to previously, Dr Cox. There was a comment here  
24 that you made that might be significant to what we are  
25 talking about now.

26 A. Yes.

27

28 Q. In that third column, you say:

29

30 *And there is more than reluctance to*  
31 *acknowledge the existence of gay and*  
32 *lesbian police. Mr Cox says for as long as*  
33 *this attitude exists, police will be able*  
34 *to see homosexual people as "different" or*  
35 *alien.*

36

37 So what were you telling us there?

38 A. Yeah. I think we were making - I think I was making  
39 the comment that the Police Service needs to reflect the  
40 community and if you are going to address issues in the  
41 community, whether it be First Nations community or the gay  
42 and lesbian community, then the Police Service need to  
43 reflect that in their own personnel so that you had people  
44 you could identify with, but also they could influence the  
45 issues around stereotyping and prejudice.

46

47 Q. Yes. Thank you. Having now looked at all that data,

- 1 Dr Cox, there were a number of recommendations made --  
2 A. Yes.  
3  
4 Q. -- in the Streetwatch Report. Indeed, three pages of  
5 recommendations, and we can see all those in the report.  
6 But they covered legislative change, principally a new  
7 ground of complaint under the Anti-Discrimination Act  
8 relating to homosexual vilification?  
9 A. Yes.  
10  
11 Q. And we know that did happen down the track in 1993.  
12 But recommendations also touched upon policing, education,  
13 youth, health and community programs. This report, where  
14 was it distributed to, and to whom?  
15 A. So we sent it far and wide, but principally we started  
16 with the relevant ministers in the State Government. We  
17 sent it to the relevant minister in the Australian  
18 Government. Obviously, we sent it also to relevant local  
19 members of parliament. We sent it to some of the councils.  
20 We sent it to our own community organisations, the AIDS  
21 Council, and so on. So we had quite a distribution list.  
22  
23 Q. Can I ask, what was the response from police to the  
24 report?  
25 A. That's a good question. I think by 1990, Bruce Grant  
26 and Carole Ruthchild were the co-convenors of the Gay and  
27 Lesbian Rights Lobby, so they were handling that side of  
28 it. So I think my recollection is not very clear about  
29 that, to be honest.  
30  
31 Q. That's okay. We can ask Mr Grant that.  
32 A. I think in general, it was receptive.  
33  
34 Q. We can see from your statement that there were a  
35 number of policing initiatives --  
36 A. Yes.  
37  
38 Q. -- that came directly from the report, and you detail  
39 those at paragraph 37 of your statement.  
40 A. Yes.  
41  
42 Q. You have already mentioned the foot patrols, including  
43 that border dispute that you were previously describing to  
44 us --  
45 A. Yes, yes.  
46  
47 Q. -- that was resolved?

1 A. Yes.

2

3 Q. There was a large police operations van stationed at  
4 Taylor Square to provide assistance to members of the  
5 LGBTIQ community and speed up police response times, and  
6 you say also improved police community relations by having  
7 that van stationed there?

8 A. That van was, I think, quite an important initiative,  
9 because it was good having that van there, because the  
10 problem with street patrols, I had a personal incident  
11 where it was - it may have been 1989 or 1990, I can't  
12 remember exactly when, but I can remember it was the Friday  
13 before Mardi Gras, and I was walking up Oxford Street near  
14 the corner of Riley Street and two police officers walked  
15 past me. I walked a bit further up to where the Midnight  
16 Shift used to be, and there was a young man who'd been  
17 attacked. He was actually heterosexual, but he was  
18 presumed to be gay from where he was. So I took him to  
19 hospital. But that's an example of that the police  
20 officers could be patrolling the streets, but just at that  
21 moment they could have missed that. And I was looking for  
22 them, but they had gone so far down the street I couldn't  
23 run after them because I knew I had to take this man to  
24 hospital. So the van was good. It was a point you could  
25 go to, and it was also symbolic of greater openness and  
26 willingness to be supportive to the gay and lesbian  
27 community.

28

29 Q. And, of course, the final point you make there is that  
30 Sue Thompson was made the gay and lesbian client group  
31 consultant for New South Wales Police, and we know that was  
32 in 1990, and she took a more proactive role in monitoring  
33 incidents, resolving complaints, and promoting improved  
34 policing practices. And it's our understanding, and is it  
35 yours as well, Dr Cox, that this was also the start of gay  
36 and lesbian liaison officers within the police being  
37 stationed at particular stations?

38 A. Yeah, that was a highly critical change that needed to  
39 happen.

40

41 Q. And they were grown as GLLOs?

42 A. Yes.

43

44 MS MELIS: Commissioner, I note the time, and I am going to  
45 be moving on now to a set of other topics. If now might be  
46 a convenient time?

47

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, all right. I will take a short  
2 adjournment. Thank you.

3  
4 **SHORT ADJOURNMENT**

[11.17 am]

5  
6 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Ms Melis, thank you.

7  
8 MS MELIS: Thank you, Commissioner.

9  
10 Q. Dr Cox, sitting here now, did you appreciate the  
11 significance of the Streetwatch Report and what it did and  
12 what it achieved?

13 A. At the time, it was what you had to do. I mean -  
14 because your friends were being affected and you could see,  
15 as I said before, there was a rising tide of violence in  
16 the community. And it just seemed to me, standing on top  
17 of that mountain, that this is what had to happen. So at  
18 the time I didn't realise the significance of it, but  
19 looking back now, I can see that it did provide the  
20 evidence base, it did provide the bench line. It did  
21 change the way this issue was looked at. I did get a lot  
22 of criticism from my friends and other people, in what you  
23 might call activists, who just thought, "Why are you  
24 collecting all this data? Why aren't we protesting outside  
25 parliament or police stations," but I knew that wouldn't be  
26 as effect as providing a solid incontrovertible baseline of  
27 evidence.

28  
29 Q. We know that following Streetwatch, in 1990, the  
30 Anti-Violence Project was initiated?

31 A. Yes.

32  
33 Q. Of course, we will hear more detail from Mr Grant  
34 after you about that project?

35 A. Yes.

36  
37 Q. But insofar as that project was concerned, it also  
38 acted as a third party reporter --

39 A. Yes.

40  
41 Q. -- of reports by the community to it of incidents of  
42 violence, and you went on to author the Count & Counter  
43 Report, and that was a report which commented on data that  
44 was collected between 1991 and 1994; is that correct?

45 A. So there were two data sets. What was called the 1992  
46 dataset was between November 1991 and June 1992, and the  
47 '93 dataset was the 12 months July 1992 to June 1993.

1  
2 Q. And the report itself came out in 1994?  
3 A. That's correct, yes.  
4  
5 Q. I see. That report, the data that that report used --  
6 A. Yes.  
7  
8 Q. -- included data that had been collated through the  
9 Anti-Violence Project?  
10 A. That's right. So they took over the role of the  
11 counselling services in being the point of contact for  
12 people who'd been the subject of attacks. And also verbal  
13 abuse was also --  
14  
15 Q. Yes. What was the feeling at the time in terms of the  
16 need to continue collating data of violence amongst the gay  
17 and lesbian community? What was the feeling around that at  
18 the time?  
19 A. Well, I think we couldn't be certain that people were  
20 reporting to police routinely, and I think the feeling was  
21 we needed to have our fingers on the pulse to make sure we  
22 had the full scope of the problem before us. And we had  
23 contemporaneous reports, so coming in from people who may  
24 have been subject of an assault the week before, kind of  
25 thing, and I think the AVP managed to also - when people  
26 called and reported to them, slightly different to the  
27 counselling services, that they could sort of recommend  
28 that people did then take the next step of making a formal  
29 complaint or a formal report to the police. So there was a  
30 kind of nuanced difference which we didn't instruct the Gay  
31 and Lesbian Counselling Service or Lesbian Line to make  
32 those kind of comments; we asked them to fill out the  
33 survey accurately.  
34  
35 Q. I take it from what you say, is it a fair thing to say  
36 that there was certainly no complacency still in the early  
37 '90s around violence against the LGBTIQ community?  
38 A. Well, I think it was still evident that it was still a  
39 major issue. I think that was behind it all really. You  
40 know, it wasn't going away. There may have been a bit of a  
41 downturn as a result of some of the initiatives, but it was  
42 still a major, major issue.  
43  
44 Q. I just want to take you to some aspects of the Count &  
45 Counter Report, Dr Cox. We won't give it the same  
46 treatment as we did Streetwatch --  
47 A. Right.

1  
2 Q. -- but we will certainly take you to some significant  
3 points in it. If you could please bring up tab 18  
4 [SC0I.76804\_0001]. This is "the Count & Counter Report, A  
5 Study Into Hate Related Violence Against Lesbians and  
6 Gays", authored by yourself, Dr Cox?  
7 A. That's right.  
8  
9 Q. And as you mention, it collected incident reports  
10 between November 1991 to June 1992, and for that period  
11 there were 90 respondents?  
12 A. That's correct.  
13  
14 Q. And for the second period between July 1992 to June  
15 1993, there were 94 respondents?  
16 A. Yes.  
17  
18 Q. What this report also does, Dr Cox, is provides  
19 comparison tables with respect to Streetwatch, which we've  
20 just been through, and also the Off Our Backs Report, which  
21 was specific to anti-lesbian violence?  
22 A. Yes, that's correct.  
23  
24 Q. So you were able to make comparisons between reports  
25 and between the different years the data was collected?  
26 A. Yeah. I think, importantly, we didn't want these  
27 reports to be seen as stand-alone documents, but to have a  
28 kind of continuity between them and to build on the  
29 previous evidence base. So we were compiling, in essence.  
30  
31 Q. I want to take you firstly to page 5 of this report.  
32 We see here you have extracted some of the incidents that  
33 were reported through the Anti-Violence Project, and you  
34 have chosen a few here of these incidences?  
35 A. Yes.  
36  
37 Q. Would you mind for the benefit of the Inquiry reading  
38 two or three of those for us onto the record?  
39 A. Yeah, yeah. That's fine. I think the background for  
40 this was that perhaps I had in mind my friend who  
41 criticised me for just being interested in data, that there  
42 were real human stories behind this, and that can be little  
43 lost in a Table 14 and Table 40 and that kind of thing. So  
44 I'll read the first two, if you want. Without the  
45 expletives, Commissioner.  
46  
47 Q. Yes, thank you.

1 A.

2  
3 *Little Oxford Street, Darlinghurst.*

4  
5 *A gay tourist was bashed around mid-night.*  
6 *The survivor suffered 9 days in hospital*  
7 *with a brain haemorrhage, fractured skull*  
8 *and major injuries to his eyes and*  
9 *forehead. The motive for the attack -*  
10 *because the survivor was gay.*

11  
12 *II*

13  
14 *Maroubra, Sydney.*

15  
16 *A lesbian mother and her children were*  
17 *continually harassed for over 2 years.*  
18 *"You lesbian sluts!" was frequently yelled*  
19 *through the door. "Get out. Go home you*  
20 *[effing] dyke!". The children were told by*  
21 *other kids: "We can't play with you as*  
22 *we'll get AIDS". This verbal abuse has led*  
23 *to violence against both parent and*  
24 *children on a number of occasions. The*  
25 *attackers were often younger than 15.*

26  
27 Q. Thank you, Dr Cox. You note in your statement that,  
28 in summary, the profile of incidents, that is in respect of  
29 location, time of day, number of assailants --

30 A. Yes.

31  
32 Q. -- all of which we looked at through Streetwatch, was  
33 very similar across the Streetwatch and Count & Counter  
34 Project datasets?

35 A. Yes.

36  
37 Q. But you did observe that there did seem to be a  
38 decline in physical injury. We'll just bring up that  
39 reference, and that's on page 32 of the report. I guess  
40 Table 13, we can see there - well, you tell us, Dr Cox,  
41 what we can observe in this table?

42 A. Yes. So I think the Count & Counter surveys did want  
43 to understand from the community about incidence of verbal  
44 abuse, so there was kind of a different scope of the  
45 surveys, but the data does show that there was a mark, that  
46 when you looked from Streetwatch in 1988-89 to Count &  
47 Counter in 1993, which then was a full year, that there

1 was - even in the raw data numbers, there was a decline.  
2  
3 Q. And, similarly, the other thing that you noticed was a  
4 decline in incidents in the street?  
5 A. Yes.  
6  
7 Q. We can see that at page 34. If we could please go to  
8 that page, Table 16. Page 34. Thank you. We can see  
9 there again the first line with respect to "The street"?  
10 A. Yes, so --  
11  
12 Q. In the 1993 full year dataset, there appears to have  
13 been a decline there in the number of incidences between  
14 certainly - sorry. Sorry, yes, there has been a  
15 significant decline from the 1992 dataset --  
16 A. Yes.  
17  
18 Q. -- to the 1993 dataset?  
19 A. So I think you can - I was always sort of tentative  
20 about these kind of conclusions. During these times, we  
21 were getting more police presence around some of the  
22 hotspots, particularly Newtown and the Oxford Street and  
23 Kings Cross areas. So you would expect, particularly  
24 with - I think the van was quite significant.  
25  
26 Q. The police van?  
27 A. In Taylor Square. And generally more focus on it,  
28 which there certainly weren't - you know, if we go back to  
29 September 1988, you know, you are now in a situation where  
30 it's recognised by the police and the government as being a  
31 problem that needed to be tackled in a very robust way. So  
32 that should be - you know, that doesn't surprise me.  
33  
34 Q. We also notice a decline in incidences at beats. Do  
35 you see that, about halfway down?  
36 A. Yes.  
37  
38 Q. That appears to be another significant decline.  
39 A. If I could just see where that one is. Yeah, okay.  
40 19, 15 and 8, yeah.  
41  
42 Q. You also make a note in the report that with respect  
43 to violence against lesbians, the Count & Counter Report  
44 notes that violence against lesbians tended to be ongoing  
45 in nature and in settings other than the street, such as  
46 workplaces?  
47 A. Yes, yes.

1  
2 Q. And this was an observation that you were now able to  
3 make, particularly because you had the data from the Off  
4 Our Backs Report?  
5 A. That's exactly right, yes. And it confirmed what the  
6 women involved in the project were saying from the very  
7 beginning, actually.  
8  
9 Q. Yes, that the type of harassment and violence that  
10 they were experiencing was different in character --  
11 A. There was a different profile. Yes, that's right.  
12  
13 Q. -- and a different profile to that of gay men. And  
14 just finally, on the question of police reporting and  
15 satisfaction with Police Service, this report asked more  
16 questions about the New South Wales Police than Streetwatch  
17 did; is that correct?  
18 A. That's right.  
19  
20 Q. You note that in 1993, there had been a decrease in  
21 reports to the police. Why do you think that was?  
22 A. Have we actually got the table?  
23  
24 Q. Yes, we can go to the table. It is on page 60.  
25 Sorry, we probably should go to page 57 first. Page 57,  
26 please.  
27 A. There were two things here to point out, I think.  
28  
29 Q. Yes, sorry. And, Dr Cox, is this the appropriate  
30 table to take you to? If we could just scroll down, is  
31 that the appropriate table on police reporting?  
32 A. So we're looking at 32, 4 in Off Our Backs, 45 and 34.  
33 Okay, there are two things to point out, that I think the  
34 Count & Counter dataset in 1993 probably had - because we  
35 specifically wanted to pick up the vilification issue and  
36 the verbal issue. But also I think - so that was one  
37 point. The second point is that often the conversation  
38 with the AVP was a stepping stone to reporting. So we  
39 probably didn't pick - we wouldn't have picked up those  
40 additional reporters. But they were encouraged to report  
41 to the police.  
42  
43 Q. Yes. So at this time, they did have the benefit --  
44 A. Yes.  
45  
46 Q. -- of the Anti-Violence Project --  
47 A. Yes.

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Q. -- as a place which they could report to?

A. It was a first port of call, essentially, which was different to Streetwatch. Streetwatch was very much just data gathering. The AVP was a first port of call. You know, what help do people need, encouraging people to report, and so on.

Q. Yes. Just one final observation and difference between the data in Count & Counter and Streetwatch was this: that 60 per cent of respondents in Count & Counter in 1992 and 41 per cent in 1993 identified as lesbian or gay to the police, with the equivalent figure for Streetwatch in 1990 having been 25 per cent.

A. Yes.

Q. So we see there a marked increase in people identifying to police as gay or lesbian; is that right?

A. Yes, and I think there was to do with the kind of community education campaign that we were undertaking, that it was important for people to do so.

Q. Yes.

A. So that hate crime could be recognised as such. But also there may have been a feeling that the police were changing and, therefore, people felt more comfortable. And I suppose, practically speaking, you know, if you're attacked and you go to the police station, you don't necessarily think that, "I'm going to the police station to identify as gay and lesbian", you probably just decide in the moment when you're at the desk, and the person who is responding to you gives you a positive feeling about how they're going to take things. So you probably decide in the moment that that's what you're going to do.

Q. Yes. And is another observation to make here is that by this time, gay and lesbian liaison officers were more prevalent within police stations and they could be a port of call for the people to make their reports?

A. That's exactly right. Yeah

Q. And make them feel more comfortable in identifying?

A. Yes.

Q. Dr Cox, they are the substantive questions I have for you.

A. Yes.

1  
2 Q. Are there any other reflections or observations that  
3 you wish to share that I have not taken you to?  
4 A. I think - I think the project did what it set out to  
5 achieve, which was to get it on the agenda of the  
6 authorities who could change things. I think also it  
7 started that change in community attitudes, which obviously  
8 a police officer on the beat is part of the community as  
9 well. So I think it was quite successful in that. I do  
10 recall, when I was involved in the Gay Games, going to the  
11 opening of the Gay Games in Amsterdam and going to an  
12 official function and speaking to the Amsterdam  
13 Commissioner of Police. And he said to me, "The New South  
14 Wales Police and the Amsterdam have the same community  
15 policing sort of methodology and approach, and we often do  
16 training together." So I thought at the time, you know, we  
17 came quite a way in quite a short period of time. So, yes,  
18 that's - thank you.  
19  
20 Q. Thank you very much for your evidence.  
21  
22 MS MELIS: Those are my questions, Commissioner.  
23  
24 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much. Ms Richards, any  
25 questions?  
26  
27 MS RICHARDS: No, thank you.  
28  
29 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much, Dr Cox. You may  
30 stand-down. Thank you.  
31  
32 **<THE WITNESS WAS RELEASED [12.07 pm]**  
33  
34 MS MELIS: Commissioner, I call Bruce Grant.  
35  
36 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.  
37  
38 **<BRUCE GRANT, affirmed: [12.08 pm]**  
39  
40 **<EXAMINATION BY MS MELIS**  
41  
42 THE COMMISSIONER: Please sit down.  
43  
44 Yes, Ms Melis.  
45  
46 MS MELIS: Thank you, Commissioner.  
47

1 MS MELIS: Q. What is your name?  
2 A. My name is Bruce Grant.  
3  
4 Q. Your occupation?  
5 A. I am an international advisor and consultant on child  
6 protection. What that means is I give advice to developing  
7 countries and international organisations such as the UN on  
8 how to protect children from violence.  
9  
10 Q. You made a statement to the Inquiry, signed and dated  
11 15 November 2022; is that correct?  
12 A. Yes.  
13  
14 Q. Thank you. Mr Grant, I understand that from 1989 to  
15 1991, you served as co-convenor of the Gay and Lesbian  
16 Rights Lobby in New South Wales?  
17 A. That's correct.  
18  
19 Q. From 1991 to 1999 you were the coordinator of the Gay  
20 and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project?  
21 A. Yes.  
22  
23 Q. We will delve into each of those roles more deeply,  
24 but I also would like to note that you have served in a  
25 variety of roles within the LGBTIQ community over a number  
26 of years, including as a board member of Twenty10; is that  
27 right?  
28 A. Yes.  
29  
30 Q. As well as a board member of Gay Community Publishing,  
31 which is the publisher of the Sydney Star Observer?  
32 A. Yes.  
33  
34 Q. And that was around 1988-89?  
35 A. Correct.  
36  
37 Q. You have also been a chair of the outreach committee  
38 of the 2002 Sydney Gay Games, which was an international  
39 LGBTQ+ and gay friendly sports and cultural event, and that  
40 was between 1999 and 2002?  
41 A. Yes.  
42  
43 Q. Also for the benefit of the inquiry, I would like to  
44 indicate that you were, in 2007, inducted into the Gay and  
45 Lesbian Rights Lobby Hall of Fame for your work on violence  
46 prevention and response?  
47 A. Yes, that's correct.

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Q. Mr Grant, do we take it that that award in particular acknowledged the substantial work that you did as coordinator of the Anti-Violence Project?

A. I think that's right, but it was about recognising the work that a lot of people did during that time.

Q. Yes. You were a co-convenor of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, and was that with Carole Ruthchild?

A. Yes.

Q. We might start there and take you back in time. If we could please go to tab 130 [SCOI.77268\_0001]. Page 8 of that bundle. That is you, Mr Grant?

A. That is. That is a very young Bruce Grant.

Q. And Ms Ruthchild?

A. With Carole Ruthchild yes.

Q. And that was during your time as co-convenors of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby?

A. That's right. I think it might have been the launch of the Streetwatch Report. I'm not sure. I think that was correct.

Q. What motivated you to become involved with the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby?

A. Like Dr Cox, I was at that first public meeting where the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby was formed, and I served as a board member in that first period of time. And then when Gary and Jane were stepping down as co-convenors, Carole and I were elected, and because we had a broad interest in trying to progress the agenda for lesbian and gay rights at the time.

Q. You outline several of the significant achievements during your time as co-convenor from 1989 to 1992 in your statement. One of those was the creation of a community legal service to provide legal advice and services to LGBTIQ people. Can you just explain to us what was the involvement of the Rights Lobby with the setup of that service?

A. What was clear at the time was that, because of homophobia, that often lesbian and gay men weren't getting the legal services that they required - it could be advice around tenancy, parenting - because of violence. So a number of lesbian and gay lawyers within the Rights Lobby

1 thought it would be appropriate to establish some sort of  
2 clinic, in a sense, where people could get that advice, and  
3 also coordinated in collaboration with the Inner City Legal  
4 Service at that time. So really it was a place where  
5 people could either phone in or go and get legal advice  
6 they wouldn't feel comfortable trying to get somewhere  
7 else.

8  
9 Q. You also mention another achievement being the  
10 development of the Streetwatch Project, which was, I  
11 gather, essentially commissioned by the Gay and Lesbian  
12 Rights Lobby?

13 A. Sorry, I missed the question.

14  
15 Q. The Streetwatch Project, it was essentially  
16 commissioned by the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby?

17 A. Yes.

18  
19 Q. And, finally, the establishment of the Lesbian and Gay  
20 Anti-Violence Project to mobilise a community response to  
21 hate crimes. So you were co-convenor at the time that  
22 the - I will call it the AVP - was established?

23 A. Yes, it was. So what you had at the time was a group  
24 of volunteers who were the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.  
25 The Streetwatch Report provided great clarity around what  
26 was the issue with violence and what sort of needed to be  
27 done, and what the community wanted was a more  
28 concentrated, intense mechanism to try and scale up the  
29 community response. So through the lobby, we then thought  
30 we'd establish an Anti-Violence Project. And then we were  
31 successful to get money for that project. A number of  
32 positions were created, advertised; I won one of them. So  
33 I was the coordinator for the Anti-Violence Project going  
34 forward for a number of years.

35  
36 Q. Is it a fair comment to make that at this time, around  
37 1990, with all the things that had previously come,  
38 including Streetwatch Report, the formation of a Gay and  
39 Lesbian Rights Lobby, that there was an upsurge by the gay  
40 and lesbian community, or the LGBTIQ community, to have a  
41 community response to the violence that was being reported?

42 A. I think that's absolutely correct. What the - clearly  
43 what was needed was a way to encourage people to make  
44 reports in a more systematic way, so what the AVP could do  
45 was actually provide a service where there was staff, so  
46 people could actually phone in and make a report, but also  
47 seek advice on how to go to the police or to report to the

1 police. So on the Streetwatch, really, people could make  
2 the report, but the people phoned through the counselling  
3 service, staffed by volunteers, whereas the Anti-Violence  
4 Project, they phoned through to staff of the Anti-Violence  
5 Project, whose part of their job description was to say, "I  
6 can now ring the police and we can try and facilitate a  
7 process to help you make that report, if you are reluctant  
8 to do so".

9  
10 Q. Just picking up on the mood at the time amongst the  
11 LGBTIQ community, I wanted to take you to a rally that was  
12 organised on Saturday, 3 March 1990. If we could please  
13 bring up tab 128 [SC0I.77376]. Yes. And if we could just  
14 scroll down a little bit so we could see the bottom. Thank  
15 you. This was a rally poster; is that right?

16 A. Yes, correct.

17  
18 Q. We can see that your name and Carole's name and  
19 numbers are at the bottom of that poster. Just tell us  
20 what was behind the organisation of this rally, which was  
21 to take place on 3 March at 4.00 pm in Lang Park?

22 A. Okay. The background to the rally, I suppose, is  
23 two-fold. One is there was a lot of community anger about  
24 the levels of violence and people wanted to see some  
25 concerted action around that, and a protest is a really  
26 good thing to do to bring people together, you know, in a  
27 very peaceful way to, you know, express that anger. But at  
28 the same time, violence doesn't come from nowhere. You  
29 know, violence is something that is transmitted from one  
30 generation to the next. You learn it from your parents, in  
31 a sense. It is a bit like parenting. We learn how to be  
32 parents; good or bad, we basically learn it from our  
33 parents. So in terms of hate, it was being transmitted  
34 from one institution to the next, and some institutions  
35 were promoting that hate. So at the time you had the  
36 Festival of Light was, I suppose, the main body challenging  
37 the notion of gay rights, and they were saying very  
38 inciteful things that we thought was inciting violence. So  
39 the rally was about taking that message to that particular  
40 institution and saying, "You cannot vilify gay and lesbians  
41 in that way. If you do, we will challenge you." And that  
42 was the context of that particular rally.

43  
44 Q. You have mentioned the Festival of Light, and behind  
45 that was a Reverend Fred Nile; is that right?

46 A. That's correct.

47

1 Q. We have some articles about the rally at the time. If  
2 we could please go those now, tab 59 [SC0I.76858]. This  
3 was a report in the Sydney Morning Herald dated 4 March  
4 1990, so the day after the rally. You can see there there  
5 is a picture. Does that essentially jog your memory as to  
6 what it was like on the day?

7 A. Yes.

8  
9 Q. Under that picture it says:

10  
11 *MORE than 500 marched in Sydney ... drawing*  
12 *attention to bashings.*

13  
14 A. Yes.

15  
16 Q. In this newspaper article, Mr Grant, it says in the  
17 first column there that:

18  
19 *Yesterday, about 500 gays marched through*  
20 *the city and stuck the names of their*  
21 *bashed friends on the gates of Scots Church*  
22 *which houses the offices of the Festival of*  
23 *Light. Propaganda put out by the*  
24 *organisation is inciting the bashings, they*  
25 *claim.*

26  
27 So that's consistent with what you have just told the  
28 inquiry, that the Festival of Light and the propaganda that  
29 was being distributed by that organisation was behind the  
30 rally?

31 A. That's correct. And also at the time, as Dr Cox  
32 explained, so there was a greater focus at this time around  
33 incitement to violence. So Streetwatch about documenting  
34 physical attacks, also verbal but primarily physical. When  
35 we started looking in greater depth, it was very clear that  
36 we also had incitement to violence which was encouraging  
37 people to go out to commit those acts. And, hence, that's  
38 why this type of rally was important and why we chose to  
39 focus on the Festival of Light, and it was part of that  
40 broader campaign to ensure that gays and lesbians were  
41 protected from anti-vilification.

42  
43 Q. Yes. In this report, it acknowledges here that:

44  
45 *Police and gays say the bashings are not*  
46 *motivated by robbery but by hate.*

1 Was that one of the first times that there was an  
2 acknowledgement that these bashings were about hate?

3 A. I don't think it's the first time, but I think again  
4 through the work of the Streetwatch Project and the  
5 analysis of that data, what became clear was the motivation  
6 was simply - was not simply about being in the wrong place  
7 at the wrong time.

8  
9 Q. Yes.

10 A. There was a motivation for it and it clearly wasn't  
11 robbery, and it was hate. And that became clear through  
12 the language people used during the assault. And the thing  
13 to remember about Oxford Street and Darlinghurst was at the  
14 time, I think the South Sydney Council was estimating about  
15 30 per cent of the population who lived in that area, who  
16 lived in that geographical space, were gay and lesbian. So  
17 it was people being attacked going to the shop to buy a  
18 pint of milk. It was not all about as a result of going to  
19 clubs, so that people in that particular neighbourhood  
20 became a target for people who thought it was okay to  
21 express that hate through violence.

22  
23 Q. Yes. Thank you. If we go to another contemporaneous  
24 article around the rally, and that is at tab 117  
25 [SC0I.76920]. This is from the Sydney Star Observer,  
26 Mr Grant, and it is dated 9 March 1990. And we can see  
27 there a photo of the front door of the Festival of Light,  
28 and there is a policeman removing accounts of gay bashings  
29 that were put up. Do you recall that happening, the police  
30 coming and removing the posters that had been put up?

31 A. Yes. It wasn't actually posters. What that was  
32 about, was - we asked people, if they'd been bashed, if  
33 they'd experienced this sort of violence, to write their  
34 name on a piece of paper and stick it on the church door.  
35 It was a very symbolic way to visualise this. And I think  
36 the policemen at the time were quite shocked by that, and  
37 started taking down the names. But then that was managed -  
38 he was sort of moved to the side, I think, by some other  
39 police, and that process continued where people again wrote  
40 their name again and put it back on the church door.

41  
42 Q. From your recollection, were there quite a number of  
43 people who did that?

44 A. Yes, it was in the hundreds, yes.

45  
46 Q. In the hundreds. The article notes there that:

47

1                   *Apparently it's an offence under the*  
2                   *Summary Offences Act to stick anything on a*  
3                   *church building.*  
4

5                   So that may have been the reason why police were removing  
6                   those pieces of paper?

7                   A.    Yes, and I think one couldn't actually attack the  
8                   police officers for doing that. He probably saw it as  
9                   being quite a confrontational thing. The thing to  
10                  remember, we are talking about a piece of paper with some  
11                  sticky tape. It wasn't graffiti; it wasn't damage.  
12

13                 Q.    The report also notes that:

14  
15                   *In Elizabeth Street a vocal and angry*  
16                   *heckler driving a utility truck punched a*  
17                   *young gay man after being blown a kiss.*  
18

19                 Do you recall that?

20                 A.    No, I don't, in fact, actually. I was reminded of  
21                 that when I read the article, but I don't remember the  
22                 actual incident itself.  
23

24                 Q.    Yes. You are later quoted in the article as saying  
25                 there was a real cross-section of people there. When you  
26                 say "cross-section of people", what did you mean?

27                 A.    Well, it was in terms of both lots of lesbians, lots  
28                 of gay men, there were families there, you had lots of  
29                 transgender people, and also people living in different  
30                 parts of Sydney who had been affected by this violence,  
31                 so --  
32

33                 Q.    Yes. Did you feel that this had been a successful  
34                 rally for the time?

35                 A.    Indeed. I think it was one of the - it wasn't the  
36                 first, but it was one of the first rallies that was on this  
37                 specific issue, and there was a number of other ones after  
38                 that.  
39

40                 Q.    Yes. Thank you. Just staying on this theme of  
41                 violence and statistics that we had of the time, if I could  
42                 please take you to tab 113 [SC0I.76949\_0001]. This is an  
43                 article again from the Star Observer dated 7 August 1992,  
44                 but we can see there some statistics, if we just scroll  
45                 down a little bit. Yes, statistics from the Bureau of  
46                 Crime Statistics, which recorded that:  
47

1           In 1990, there were 3,379 assaults reported  
2           to police in inner Sydney. In 1991 the  
3           number was 3,977 for inner Sydney. In  
4           total, there were 17,666 reported assaults  
5           in the Sydney area in 1991.  
6

7           Was that certainly, from your perspective, an increase in  
8           the number of reports that were going to police of violence  
9           against gay and lesbian people?

10          A. Yes, I am just trying to make sense of the data. Can  
11          you just scroll down to the last paragraph on the first  
12          column? Yes, okay. And then up to the second. Okay.  
13          Fine.

14  
15          Q. I think the figure of 17,666 is a total number of  
16          assaults.

17          A. Yes. I think that was the feeling at the time, was  
18          that violence was increasing.

19  
20          Q. Yes.

21          A. Yes.

22  
23          Q. In addition to that, these statistics wouldn't have  
24          necessarily picked up on reports that were being made to  
25          the Anti-Violence Project and not to police, so there would  
26          have been additional reports, certainly, when the  
27          Anti-Violence Project was started in 1990; is that right?

28          A. That's right, yes.

29  
30          Q. Thank you. And --

31          A. Sorry, just one thing on the data. It is important to  
32          remember that the Bureau of Crime Statistics wasn't  
33          collecting data on hate crimes at the time, so we don't  
34          have any information about what percentage of those  
35          assaults may have been as related of hate or otherwise.

36  
37          Q. Yes, thank you. We can take that down, thank you.  
38          Mr Grant, we've already talked about the Streetwatch  
39          Report, and subsequent to that there was the "Off Our  
40          Backs" report that looked into anti-lesbian violence  
41          specifically, and that was in 1992, but by this time you  
42          were the coordinator of the Anti-Violence Project?

43          A. That's correct.

44  
45          Q. So you didn't have any involvement in that study; is  
46          that right?

47          A. Yes. Well, again the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby was

1 the parent body for the Anti-Violence Project. So yes, so  
2 the team of the Anti-Violence Project would have been  
3 working closely with the volunteers of the Gay and Lesbian  
4 Rights Lobby to pull that report together.

5  
6 Q. Yes. And similarly, the same, I take it, goes for the  
7 Count & Counter Report?

8 A. That's right, yes.

9  
10 Q. And I might just take you to that report again,  
11 tab 18?

12 A. Maybe I could just clarify on that last point. With  
13 the Streetwatch Report, and you think about the name  
14 "Streetwatch", and so clearly that is what I was looking  
15 for, because the understanding was that gays are being  
16 bashed on the street and we wanted data around that. And  
17 that's what we sort of found. But we didn't get much  
18 reports of violence against lesbians, right? And so, the  
19 "Off Our Backs" report had a sort of broader focus, trying  
20 to pick up all types of violence against lesbians. And  
21 hence, that was initiated by the Gay and Lesbian Rights  
22 Lobby as a follow-up to Streetwatch. Count & Counter was a  
23 report of the AVP, since the AVP was established, and as  
24 the name says, it is again broad trying to sort of get  
25 data, to sort of count the data, and then to counter the  
26 violence.

27  
28 Q. Yes. I understand. Yes, thank you. You in fact put  
29 in a message in this report as the coordinator of the  
30 Anti-Violence Project, and we can see that at pages 6 and 7  
31 of the report [SCOI.76804\_0008]. I just wanted to take you  
32 to a couple of reflections that you make here. You say in  
33 the first paragraph:

34  
35 *On the face of it, [the data] reveals a*  
36 *decrease in hate crime when the shorter*  
37 *duration of the 1992 dataset is considered.*

38  
39 Then you go on to say:

40  
41 *However, if there is a trend to less*  
42 *violence how could it be explained?*  
43 *Firstly, since 1989, there has been*  
44 *heightened community awareness of violence*  
45 *and the likely times and places where*  
46 *incidents usually occur.*  
47

1 And you then go on to talk about the intensive violence  
2 prevention strategies that were implemented by the  
3 government and the Anti-Violence Project. So I take it at  
4 the time of the publication of this report - and certainly  
5 upon reflecting on those early years - there had also been,  
6 as well as a groundswell of community support, there was  
7 also a number of initiatives and changes to legislation and  
8 other projects that helped bring awareness around the issue  
9 of violence amongst the gay and lesbian community; is that  
10 right?

11 A. That's correct.

12  
13 Q. But you do give a warning in this foreword, where you  
14 say:

15  
16 *My message is simple when reading this*  
17 *report - "Proceed with caution!".*

18  
19 Can you just explain to us why you were making that  
20 caution?

21 A. I suppose there is two reasons. One is they were  
22 still a small sample set, what they were trying to compare, and  
23 while - and because when you spoke - are speaking about  
24 sort of like the number we are dealing with, like a small  
25 trend could indicate something - so, for example, I think  
26 we found in the second dataset maybe there had been a  
27 decrease in physical violence. So it was very careful how  
28 you interpreted that. And, secondly, yes, there had been a  
29 range of efforts to try and reduce the violence through  
30 education campaigns targeting lesbians and gays about how to  
31 be safer when they are out and about as well as messages  
32 such as "Homophobia, what are you scared of?", targeted at  
33 younger people. What we were trying to say was, yes,  
34 that's happening, but this is not an evaluation of those  
35 sort of initiatives. We have no evidence to say that those  
36 campaigns are working as yet. So data is very useful, but  
37 data usually indicates you need to look beyond what you are  
38 actually seeing, and I suppose that was the intent of that  
39 message.

40  
41 Q. Let's move on and now take a deep dive into the  
42 Anti-Violence Project, which occupied your time between  
43 1991 and 1999. You have described it as evolving into one  
44 of Australia's foremost violence prevention and community  
45 safety programs. I take it that its broad goals were  
46 around documentation, advocacy, behaviour change and  
47 research; is that right?

1 A. That's correct.  
2  
3 Q. By research, that included things like the Count  
4 & Counter Report that we have just been talking about?  
5 A. Correct.  
6  
7 Q. To document incidents of violence, people could now  
8 directly report to the AVP?  
9 A. Mmm-hmm.  
10  
11 Q. Although I take it the message was always to report to  
12 police?  
13 A. That's right. So it was very clear that what we  
14 needed was for the police to get this data. If they  
15 weren't getting the data, then you would continue to see  
16 little or inappropriate action. So, yes, so AVP was  
17 encouraging people to report to the police if they felt  
18 uncomfortable to report to us, but also we wanted the data  
19 as well so we could use that to inform our prevention  
20 advocacy strategies.  
21  
22 Q. Yes. I just now want you to take us through some of  
23 these advertising, promotional and education campaigns that  
24 the AVP championed between 1992 and 1997, in particular.  
25 We might just go through those. This is at tab 130 at  
26 page 9, please [SC0I.77268\_0009]. You can see here, for  
27 example, this is some advertising around Count & Counter,  
28 getting people to make reports; is that right?  
29 A. That's right. And as I said earlier, again if you  
30 think about the Streetwatch Report, "Street" had a  
31 particular ring to it. It was trying to focus on what we  
32 understood at the time being the main problem. By the time  
33 we did this campaign, it was a broader focus; we wanted to  
34 count the violence but also counter it. And that was the  
35 idea of getting people to report all types of violence to  
36 the Anti-Violence Project.  
37  
38 Q. If we could move on to page 11, this is a poster from  
39 1994 directed at anti-lesbian hate crime and did you find  
40 that these sorts of campaigns were effective in  
41 communicating both to the gay and lesbian community but  
42 also the broader community in bringing awareness about  
43 harassment, vilification and violence against these groups?  
44 A. These campaigns are extraordinarily powerful. The  
45 campaigns are called, like, social promotion, promoting  
46 social change, and there are two sides to that. So there  
47 was a general view in terms of these type of campaigns.

1 Silence acts as a curtain, right? What the silence does is  
2 people who experience that type of violence often don't  
3 report because they don't think anybody is going to take it  
4 seriously. So this part of the campaign saying, "No", you  
5 know, "You do have rights", "That's not negotiable", "If  
6 you experience violence, it is really important to report  
7 it". And so this is an example of one of those campaigns  
8 we did, especially if you're targeting lesbian and gay or  
9 broader queer communities.

10

11 Q. Thank you. And the Anti-Violence Project, is it right  
12 to say it had a quarterly publication called "Lifesaver"?

13 A. That's right.

14

15 Q. We will bring up a cover of that, in the same  
16 document, please, but page 3. This is a cover  
17 from May-June 1996.

18 A. Okay.

19

20 Q. Here we can see the focus of this issue was on a youth  
21 campaign; is that right?

22 A. That's right.

23

24 Q. It was:

25

26 *... designed to reduce the level of*  
27 *involvement of young people in violence*  
28 *against lesbians and gays by contributing*  
29 *to a social climate which encourages and*  
30 *supports young people to take a stand*  
31 *against anti-lesbian homophobic violence.*

32

33 This, again, I take it, is a campaign or a project that's  
34 been directed to and responding to some of the statistics  
35 and data that the AVP would have had by this time related  
36 to the age of assailants being in their younger years?

37 A. Absolutely. And also - so this newsletter, I think,  
38 was produced quarterly over a number of years and each  
39 issue had a theme.

40

41 Q. Yes.

42 A. So what we know in terms of behaviour change, there  
43 are generally three groups of people. You have one group  
44 of people who basically agree with the message you are  
45 trying to put out there. So, basically, a third of young  
46 people get the message very clearly that homophobia is  
47 unacceptable. You have another third, roughly, who you call

1 like, the fence sitters. They'll go with the mob. So if  
2 someone is out with a group of friends who say that  
3 homophobia is bad, they will agree. If they are with  
4 another group of friends who said, "Let's go and bash a  
5 poofter", they agree. And yet your hardest group are those  
6 who indulge in a sort of intense hatred. And this campaign  
7 is very much targeting those first two groups of young  
8 people. It is for young people who have those positive  
9 values to reaffirm them, and then also to send a signal to  
10 those who are fence sitters that, you know, really this is  
11 the position should be adopted. And what it also does is  
12 then marginalise those who express hate. This campaign is  
13 not going to stop people from going out and poofter  
14 bashing, but it means they are going to be more aware that  
15 there is some action now and that it is a less safe  
16 activity than it was before.

17  
18 Q. Yes. And just a couple more themes that were being  
19 promoted. If we go to page 5 of the same document, this is  
20 a reconciliation - sorry, one of the themes here being  
21 reconciliation, but it is titled:

22  
23 *Which one of this mob is gay?*

24  
25 *Who cares anyway - we are all family.*

26  
27 What was the theme around this issue in 1997?

28 A. What we know in terms of violence is certain groups of  
29 individuals experience violence more than others. So we  
30 know generally in a society women experience more violence  
31 than men. We know that people with disabilities experience  
32 more violence than people who don't have a disability, and  
33 we know in terms of Indigenous people, they also experience  
34 multiple levels of violence. So this campaign was part of  
35 that broader campaign, which was "Homophobia: What are you  
36 scared of?", and it was designed to get leading voices  
37 within the Indigenous communities to speak out with safe  
38 messages to support young Indigenous lesbian and gay  
39 people. So on the cover there's a range of quite famous  
40 Aboriginal people - I think Leah Purcell is in there, and  
41 others.

42  
43 Q. Yes. Just one more cover, on page 1. This is the  
44 cover of November/December 1995 and it has a focus on the  
45 "New Summer Campaign", and you are quoted there as saying:

46  
47 *Unfortunately there is a high correlation*

1           *between crime rates and summer months, with*  
2           *more people out on the streets and*  
3           *vulnerable to abuse or attack. This is our*  
4           *fourth annual summer campaign ...*  
5

6           Again I take it, Mr Grant, that these campaigns were being  
7           pushed forward and dictated by the data and statistics that  
8           you had around time and location of attacks?

9           A.    Absolutely. So it was informed by the data and it was  
10          also informed by - that, again, it is about mobilising the  
11          community to respond. So basically saying, you know, this  
12          violence is - you don't have to put up with it. There are  
13          things you can do, very simple things you can do, and so  
14          violence says more if you do nothing about it. So what can  
15          you do? You can carry a whistle, you can report it, and so  
16          forth.

17  
18          Q.    Yes. Thank you. There are a couple of educational  
19          campaigns and awareness campaigns that you have also  
20          provided us with, and if I can just take you to those  
21          briefly. If we go to page 6 of the same document. So this  
22          sort of campaign or poster, where would people see this?

23          A.    So this type of campaign was very much targeting  
24          people going out to bars and clubs.

25  
26          Q.    Yes.

27          A.    So the setting, as you can see, it looks like a bar  
28          and it's just advising people when they are out and about  
29          just to remember that violence can happen and to be street  
30          smart around all of that.

31  
32          Q.    Were these posters or campaigns published in --

33          A.    Yes.

34  
35          Q.    -- magazines or other publications, newspapers, where?

36          A.    Yes, sorry. So that was actually a poster of a series  
37          of, like, six different posters. So you had posters that  
38          were put up in gay bars, clubs and restaurants, and there  
39          were a series of postcards with the same image, the same  
40          message, that was also available through cafes and so forth  
41          like that, and that was also used in advertising within gay  
42          and lesbian and so forth newspapers.

43  
44          Q.    We can see one more that you provided us with on  
45          page 7. What's the message in this one?

46          A.    With this particular image, I suppose what we're  
47          trying to say is that - you know, this violence can happen

1 to anyone, and the person is clearly trans. Whether they  
2 are trans for life or a night, we have no idea. But it is  
3 basically saying violence affects you as well, and again,  
4 be aware, and to report it if anything happens.

5  
6 Q. Thank you. Your statement details for us some of the  
7 other community-based initiatives during your time as the  
8 co-coordinator of AVP, also including the Whistle Project,  
9 Safe Place Safe Spaces Project and volunteers doing patrols  
10 on Oxford Street, for example, and the Inquiry has heard  
11 evidence to that effect. Were they, to your mind,  
12 effective deterrents?

13 A. Absolutely. One project I should say was the Whistle  
14 Project, and what was that about was promoting the use  
15 where people could simply carry a whistle in their pocket,  
16 you know, a very easy thing to do. So if you felt under  
17 attack you could blow the whistle, or if you saw someone  
18 being attacked you could blow the whistle, if you wanted to  
19 create alert. That was a very successful strategy. And  
20 then part of that was getting business to agree to be safe  
21 places, so if someone felt under attack or siege, they  
22 could go into a business such as a local shop for  
23 protection. The street patrols were really about the sense  
24 of frustration that the police were not visible, yeah? And  
25 so, because the police weren't visible on Oxford Street,  
26 they weren't doing patrols that were necessary, the  
27 community side would set up its own community patrol  
28 system. It was separate to the AVP, but it was very  
29 effective. And what they did, they brought visibility to  
30 the issue, a challenge to the police to say, "Why  
31 are volunteers here? What are you doing? And they also  
32 provided an opportunity for people in the community that if  
33 they felt under threat or if they saw something, there was  
34 someone they could report to, and the volunteers would then  
35 report back to the police.

36  
37 Q. What was the response of police to these voluntary  
38 street patrols?

39 A. The police were quite supportive of what they would  
40 consider to be passive prevention campaigns, such as the  
41 use of whistles, posters. The police understood why we  
42 were encouraging people to report to us and to them, so  
43 those issues were generally fine, and we worked quite well  
44 with the police on other issues such as development  
45 applications for Oxford Street that were quite  
46 inappropriate. But the policing, having volunteers patrol,  
47 really upset them because the question was: Well, the

1 police will say, "You shouldn't have volunteers doing that.  
2 That's our job." And we'd say, "We agree with you, but you  
3 are not doing it." So it was always a point of friction.  
4 The project didn't last very long. I think it lasted for  
5 maybe two summers. But by the time that process had  
6 finished, the police had a much higher presence around  
7 Oxford Street. So it was effective in that sense.

8  
9 Q. Can I ask, did yourself or anyone else from the AVP  
10 work closely with the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer,  
11 Sue Thompson, at the time?

12 A. Yes. Sue was appointed, I think, in early 2000 - no,  
13 1990. And I was co-convenor at the lobby at the time, and  
14 we advocated for the police to fill that position. And  
15 then, so as part of the - when I was part of the lobby, I  
16 worked very closely with Sue and then later on when I was  
17 coordinator of the Anti-Violence Project.

18  
19 Q. Yes. I note that in your statement, you say that the  
20 AVP advocated for police to be trained on preventing and  
21 responding to anti LGBTIQ violence, and for every police  
22 station to have at least one designated liaison officer  
23 trained on working with LGBTIQ people.

24 A. That's right. We saw that as a very important  
25 initiative.

26  
27 Q. And the AVP was also instrumental in advocating for a  
28 change to the Anti-Discrimination Act to include a new  
29 ground of complaint of vilification based on perceived or  
30 actual homosexuality. So that was part of the AVP's  
31 advocacy role?

32 A. Yes, and also a wider advocacy by the Gay and Lesbian  
33 Rights Lobby, and so forth. And at that time, what you had  
34 was the issue of violence was becoming higher on  
35 everybody's agenda.

36  
37 Q. Yes.

38 A. People were seeing it as being more of a real problem  
39 than before, so you had a range of government agencies  
40 undertaking some sort of response.

41  
42 Q. Yes. You make a point in your statement, Mr Grant, at  
43 paragraph 33 of your statement that:

44  
45 *Hate was not only directed at individuals.*  
46 *It was also directed at organisations as*  
47 *this anonymous letter demonstrates:*

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Do you see that, paragraph 33?

A. Mmm-hmm, yes.

Q. And this is actually replicated in the Count & Counter Report. If we could please bring that up again. Tab 18, and page 4, please [SCOI.76804\_0004]. We note here that this is the anonymous hate mail that you refer to in your statement, and it was received by the Anti-Violence Project in 1993. Was this something that you opened up, yourself?

A. Look, I can't remember. I don't think I would have, but it certainly come in the mail. This was - email was only starting back then, so it was clearly a letter. And it was not uncommon. Like, we would have received quite frequent abusive calls, phone calls. I suppose not that much written correspondence, like this one, but a lot of abuse over the phone. People would call up and leave messages of this type of nature, yeah.

Q. For the benefit of the Inquiry and the record, would you mind reading that to us off the screen?

A. Sure:

*This essay shall explore a creature which has to be referred to as the lowest form of scum on this planet. Words that come to mind on observing this creature include scum, filth, swine, vermin, faeces, maggot, and rodent to name a few. This inferior creature has also been given names by the masses. Names such as sissies, pansies, fairies, poofers, queers, faggots and poofs. I shall refer to this lowly trash as faggots as it seems most appropriate. Faggots in the old days would burn in fires and these scum today should burn in battery acid ... A national law should be enacted to shoot the faggot vermin on sight.*

Q. Receiving this kind of hate mail, did it spur you and others in the Anti-Violence Project to do more in your work? Or how was it that you responded to it?

A. What this reflects was the violence that people were experiencing, so when people were being bashed, this is the sort of language that people would use. So that's what the hate looks like. So the fact that we received the written communication was, like, yeah, it makes you sort of angry.

1 But the reality is when people talk about being bashed and  
2 being verbally abused, that's the sort of stuff that they  
3 endure when they are being bashed, and I think that's the  
4 heart of the issue, and that's what motivates people to  
5 really want to change.  
6

7 Q. Mr Grant, those are my substantive questions. Are  
8 there any other reflections you wish to make to the  
9 Inquiry?

10 A. Just two points I think I'd like to make. One is  
11 about the police. So, clearly the police have come a long  
12 way since the early days, but I remember a meeting that Sue  
13 Thompson called back in the early 1990s, which was to  
14 actually set up the police gay and lesbian liaison  
15 officers. And the meeting involved her boss, I think a  
16 Commissioner Al Pete, a very senior police officer, and at  
17 the meeting were the control commanders and some  
18 operational officers from four or five inner city police  
19 stations. And the purpose of the meeting was to really set  
20 up the gay and lesbian liaison officer programme. But why  
21 I want to tell this story is because it's like - you know,  
22 it's when you witness change happening, you know? And I  
23 think I said to you this before, a friend of mine, when he  
24 first saw a pregnant police officer, said, "Wow, the world  
25 is changing." You know? You see things at different times  
26 and you think, "Wow, the world is changing." So at this  
27 meeting of the police, very senior police sitting around  
28 the table, they weren't engaging with us at all, the  
29 members of the gay and lesbian community there. And then  
30 this rather large senior police officer started to speak,  
31 and I think the police in the meeting assumed they were  
32 there for some public relations exercise, and it will all  
33 be over by morning tee and they will be out. But as the  
34 senior police officer was speaking, he was talking about  
35 the violence, the study, and this change. But from my  
36 perspective, what he was really saying in code was, "You  
37 can't bash them anymore. This violence is serious. You  
38 need to take it serious." I thought, "Wow, this is social  
39 change actually happening." Clearly, he didn't use those  
40 words, but that is in effect what he was saying to the  
41 team, was "The world has changed and you need to get on  
42 board." And I think that leads into my final point, which  
43 is that change is possible. Like, violence is a result of  
44 human action. So alternative human action is possible. So  
45 what that means is violence is totally preventable, you  
46 know? But for it to be preventable we need to be investing  
47 in the resources for that change to make that change

1 happening. One of the big findings of the Streetwatch  
2 Report was the need for there to be some state-based or  
3 government-led inquiry into the nature of the type of  
4 violence and then investments in some sort of plan to  
5 counter it. That's still the unfinished business; we still  
6 don't have that yet. And that's also report - sort of when  
7 you look at the ACON reports to the Upper House inquiry,  
8 and so forth, that's what they're recommending as well. So  
9 I suppose my sort of final message is unless we have some  
10 sort of inquiry that looks at the broader question of why  
11 people think it's okay to hate and to inflict harm on  
12 people, supported by some plan to deal with it, in the same  
13 way you have like a national response or a regional  
14 response to violence against women, we're never really  
15 going to get on top of this issue and it will continue.  
16 And what we do know is, like, maybe poofter bashing was a  
17 national sports back in the '70s and '80s, and still is  
18 today, to an extent today. You still read in the press  
19 about people being bashed and harassed because of their  
20 sexuality. We need to get on top of it.

21  
22 MS MELIS: Yes. Thank you for your reflections, Mr Grant,  
23 and for your evidence. Those are my questions,  
24 Commissioner.

25  
26 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you. Any questions?

27  
28 MS RICHARDS: No.

29  
30 THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Thank you very much. Yes.

31  
32 MS MELIS: Commissioner, they are the only two witnesses  
33 for today.

34  
35 THE COMMISSIONER: All right. Thank you.

36  
37 MS MELIS: Tomorrow, we will hear from Mr Ülo Klemmer, a  
38 former outreach beat worker, as well as Eloise Brook from  
39 The Gender Centre.

40  
41 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you very much. In that event,  
42 I will adjourn until 10.00 in the morning. Thank you.

43  
44 **AT 12.56 PM THE HEARING WAS ADJOURNED TO 10.00 AM ON**  
45 **THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2022**

46  
47

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