



The Hon. David Elliott MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Ref: D/2019/493469

The Hon. Shayne Mallard MLC
Chair, Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament House
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Dear Chair

I write to you regarding the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Social Issues' report on the Inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010 on behalf of the NSW Government.

I note that while the majority of recommendations made by the Committee relate to the NSW Legislative Council re-establishing the inquiry in the 57th Parliament, recommendation 3 is specific to the NSW Police Force:

That the NSW Police Force ensure that all officers have the skills and knowledge to engage with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) people respectfully and equally.

The NSW Government takes this recommendation seriously and I can assure you the NSW Police Force, under the leadership of Commissioner Mick Fuller, is already implementing measures to this end.

The NSW Police Force have accepted all 12 of the recommendations made in the final report by Strike Force Parrabell. The measures the NSW Police Force are taking to implement the recommendations are evidence of the improvements being made to ensure Officers have the skills and knowledge to engage with LGBTIQ people respectfully and equally. The NSW Police Force is making significant progress against the recommendations with:

- revised bias crime indicator assessment tools supported by appropriate training packages;
- a review of internal policies ensuring open-mindedness regarding motive;
- ongoing internal ethical and cultural training to specifically include LGBTIQ experiences; and
- ongoing improvements to ensure bias crimes are centrally captured for state-wide investigations.

While the Inquiry identified historically negative attitudes from Officers towards members of the LGBTIQ community, I am confident the views and attitudes of the NSW Police Force today towards this community are positive, respectful and professional.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. David Elliott MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

15 July 2019

Received at 9.00am
Thursday 29 August 2019