



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

MEDIA RELEASE

SUBMISSIONS OPEN FOR INQUIRY INTO GAY AND TRANSGENDER HATE CRIMES BETWEEN 1970 AND 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

27TH September 2018

Submissions have opened for a new Social Issues Committee inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes that occurred between 1970 and 2010.

The inquiry, established last week, will have particular reference to the May 2018 report of [ACON, In Pursuit of Truth and Justice](#), and the progress made by the NSW Police Force through [Strike Force Parrabell](#).

The Hon. Shayne Mallard MLC, Chair of the Committee, said: 'The gay hate crimes, bashings and murders that took place as recently as 2010 are a dark stain on our city's past that needs to be fully exposed for the sake of the victims, their families, friends and the community in general'.

Mr Mallard continued: 'The committee is mindful that examination of the hate crimes committed against the LGBTIQ community will canvass violence that occurred across a range of contexts. While this will include actions that occurred within the criminal justice system, this is not an inquiry focused solely on the NSW Police Force. The committee will seek to identify any and all impediments to the delivery of justice to victims of LGBTIQ hate crimes and their families. This may also include general societal attitudes, role of other agencies and organisations including the media. Our aim is to shine a light on the past and ensure that those impediments are effectively addressed into the future.'

The committee expects to examine a range of case studies, including those relating to the crimes committed against Alan Rosendale, Scott Johnson, John Russell and Ross Warren. The committee will also consider the role the so-called 'gay panic' defence played in the culture of LGBTIQ hate crimes, the delivery of justice and the treatment of gay men during hate crime investigations and court proceedings.

The committee welcomes submissions from all stakeholders, particularly those members of the LGBTIQ community who have experienced hate crime, and the family and friends of those victims. Submissions can be made via the [committee's website](#) until Wednesday 7 November 2018, with hearings expected to take place from late November.

For further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, please visit the [website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon. Shayne Mallard MLC, on 9230 2434.