



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

MEDIA RELEASE

FINAL REPORT INTO GAY AND TRANSGENDER HATE CRIMES RELEASED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
4 MAY 2021

An Upper House committee inquiring into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010 today tabled its report calling for the NSW Government to establish a judicial inquiry or other form of expert review to inquire into unsolved cases of suspected gay and transgender hate crime deaths.

This inquiry was initially established in 2018 and re-established in the 57th Parliament to continue to inquire into the at least 88 murders of gay and transgender people over the period 1970 to 2010, of which 23 still remain unresolved. The inquiry follows a landmark community report by ACON *In Pursuit of Truth and Justice* and the NSW Police *'Strike Force Parabell'* report.

Chair of the Committee, the Hon. Shayne Mallard MLC, welcomed the release of the final report and the opportunity it had provided for the families and friends of victims and community members to share their experience with the Parliament and seek a sense of justice for the victims.

'While decades have passed since the brutality and tragedy of history's gay and transgender hate crimes, this committee has come to know all too well that the hurt from these crimes has not. Indeed, the continued pursuit of justice by victims and their families, loved ones and advocates tell of a journey towards healing that for some has barely begun.'

The committee made three important findings in this inquiry, the first of which points to the enduring physical, mental and emotional trauma many victims of gay and transgender hate crime often carry as a result of their experiences.

The committee's second finding relates to the historical failure of the NSW Police Force in its responsibility to properly investigate cases of historical gay and transgender hate crime and the third finding recognised that for many victims of LGBTIQ hate crime and their families, the acknowledgment of past wrongs by those who failed to protect and deliver justice for LGBTIQ people is a necessary and significant step towards healing.

The key recommendation of this inquiry is that the NSW Government establish a judicial inquiry or other form of expert review to inquire into unsolved cases of suspected gay and transgender hate crime deaths.

'For too long these deaths have remained unresolved and unanswered for, leaving a hole in the lives of victims' families and loved ones. The committee believes that now is the time to act before the receding window of opportunity to obtain evidence relating to these decades old crimes closes,' Mr Mallard said.

"The recent arrest of the 1988 murder of Scott Johnson has been a welcome development in one of the alleged gay hate murders and goes to demonstrate that justice can be achieved for families and friends of the victims in these historic gay hate crimes,' Mr Mallard added.

ACON CEO Nicolas Parkhill welcomed the release of the report and supported the call for a judicial inquiry.

"The report acknowledges the pain and trauma many people from sexuality and gender diverse communities in NSW have experienced as result of historical hate crimes'.

"The report makes clear actions the NSW Government and NSW Police Force need to undertake to properly address this grief and suffering. We strongly support all the findings and recommendations outlined in the report, including the establishment of a judicial inquiry into unsolved cases of suspected gay and transgender hate crime deaths. These recommendations are important steps in our journey towards achieving healing and delivering justice to the loved ones of victims and survivors,' Mr Parkhill said.

For a full copy of the committee's report and other inquiry documents, please visit the [committee's website](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact:

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