

Submission  
No 10

## INQUIRY INTO FAMILY RESPONSE TO THE MURDERS IN BOWRAVILLE

Name: Mr Thomas Duroux

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Partially Confidential

## Submission for the Inquiry into the Bowraville Murders

My name is Thomas Duroux . I am Clinton Speedy  
Duroux's father. Clinton was living with me when he disappeared.

Clinton was a friendly, sporty, boy. He'd do anything for me and he'd help anyone. He wouldn't miss a day of school. We thought he would become a footballer or a dancer.

I knew something was wrong when Clinton disappeared because his girlfriend came to my house with his shoes because he never went anywhere without them. Immediately I started walking around town looking for him but nobody had seen him.

I called the police and they came around but there was nothing they could do 24 hours. But Clinton never came home.

I thought we would get justice at the first trial. There was other evidence that wasn't put before the court that we know about now so it is very hard to understand why the case was run the way it was. And it is very hard for us to understand, with the evidence we do know, why the verdict was 'not guilty'.

My mum attended the trial. She fainted when the verdict was read out. I took my shirt off for her to wipe her face and the police thought that I was going to be a danger, even though I was only trying to console her. The 'not guilty' verdict was a disappointment for the whole family. It was tough.

The family was given no support from police at the end of Clinton's case. There was a scrum of media that were trying to get answers from us at a time when we were upset. There should have been police media support for us to help us manage this situation which we were not used to and unprepared for.

In Evelyn's case, there were so many riot police there that I couldn't get in at all. I went to court every day for those two weeks of Evelyn's hearings and not one day did I get in. There was no community riot so there was no need for riot police. This gave the impression that the police thought the community was the problem, rather than the group to be supported.

I did have a meeting with Greg Smith. I haven't had much contact with officials while the case had gone on. He said he knew the case but he thought I was Clinton's brother, not his father. He also called me by mistake but realised and quickly apologised. He also asked me if I had counselling and I found that to be patronising especially after he seemed to understand so little about me and my situation. I had travelled for 8 hours on the train to meet with Smith – and travelled 8 hours back. The Attorney gave me only 20 minutes of his time.

Each time we think we are going to get justice, we are let down. We keep going but it is hard.

The main issue for me has been no result. I have just tried to keep on with my own life. If I sat down 24 hours a day to think about it, I'd bring myself down and I wouldn't want to do that to the people around me.

As a result of the murders and the failure to call anyone to account, the community started to divide. It tore people apart rather than bring them together. If we had justice, maybe things would change around the town. Justice would be something for the whole town, not just the families. If we get justice, it will prove we were right to keep fighting. We will keep going.

People think we should put this behind us, but we will never give up fighting for justice for Clinton.

I would be happy to give evidence to the committee.

Thomas Duroux

20 February 2014