

**Submission
No 7**

**INQUIRY INTO GAY AND TRANSGENDER HATE CRIMES
BETWEEN 1970 AND 2010**

Name: Mr Peter Clare
Date Received: 30 October 2018

WHAT HAPPENED:

It was in the late Nineties and I was at the Imperial Hotel in Erskineville, Sydney. I was with my 2 friends and we started talking to a couple of guys. One of the men was very friendly. The bouncer of the pub came over and asked them to leave and later told me they were known to the Hotel. Whatever that meant? However, they left and we left not long after. Minutes after we left, walking towards King St, Newtown, the men from the Hotel passed us and began calling us names such as fucking faggots. I was confused because they were very nice inside the Hotel. So stupidly I questioned that. Very quickly one king hit me to the ground and then kept punching. I was blinded immediately losing sight in my right eye. Witnesses came to my rescue. However, the men came back and the 2 male witnesses and my 2 friends chased them away.

REPORT TO POLICE:

The ambulance took me to RPA Hospital and the Police came and interviewed me at the hospital. I had to have surgery on my right orbit. When I was able I visited the Newtown Police station only to be told they had no record by the Police who interviewed me in Hospital and that they were not in that day. I eventually gave another statement and was later told that it had gone missing and that the 2 Police who originally interviewed me in hospital no longer worked there. I was not getting any help or information from the Newtown Police. I eventually saw the Gay&Lesbian Liaison Officer and I gave her as much information as I could and I remembered the whole incident very clearly including what the hotel bouncer saying my perpetrators were known to him. I was eventually told that he was interviewed, however, they said he didn't know anything. I found the G & L Officer was very sketchy, like her tongue was tied, when I would ask about my lost reports and the Police who originally interviewed me.

I wasn't going to give up. However, I was telephoned by the Police advising me that I should drop the matter. After a number of these calls, which were extremely coercive, I knew I wasn't going to get anywhere so I agreed and I regretted it but I was over it.

MY EXPERIENCE OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM:

Not good. I had heard about the Newtown Police in the past and thought I will do my best to get justice but I failed. All I really wanted was some acknowledgement from the Police

I kept all the records for many years but realised I needed to move on and threw them away.

CHANGES NEEDED FOR JUSTICE:

I don't have the answer. However, the Police should listen to the victim and make a record. All statements taken by Police should be copied to a central data base immediately so it is not lost. Even though I don't believe it was lost and this was about homophobia.

THE FEAR OF BEING ATTACKED REMAINED WITH ME FOR YEARS