

Submission
No 11

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 5 November 2018

Partially
Confidential

I was attacked in June/July 1989 at a park in Ryde. The park was known then as a popular "beat" park, where gay men would meet other gay men for sexual encounters. I visited the park on my way home after work. It was around 10 or 11pm, and very dark outside. I went into the toilet, stayed there for about 3-4 minutes. There was nobody in the toilet. As I walked out of the toilet, a group of men (at least 2) younger than me pushed me back into the toilet and started punching my ribs. They didn't say anything, but I screamed. Nobody came to help me. It happened fairly quickly, in a matter of minutes, and they left me. My car was parked right outside the toilet, but instead I went to the police station on Victoria Rd about 0.5 km away out of fear that my attackers would still be around. I went to the police to ask them to take me back to my car. I told a police officer that I had been attacked and wanted to be accompanied to my car. I did not file a police report because I was married at the time. The police did not ask me to file a report either. One of them asked me what I was doing in the park. I said that I went to use the toilet, and he said "Sure you did. We know what happens at that place" in a mocking expression. I cannot forget the humiliation I received from the police, instead of compassion I needed.

I never spoke to anyone about the attack because I felt ashamed that I was unfaithful to my wife. I learned that the attack had caused my ribs to crack. However, I didn't go to see a doctor or hospital because I could not tell them what had happened. I didn't seek counselling either, because I didn't trust anyone at that time. So I kept this a secret until now, after I heard of this NSW Parliamentary inquiry.

I was angry with my attackers, and I was angry with myself too. I was angry that I couldn't tell anyone my story without fear of humiliation, shame, judgement and ridicule. With the inquire, I come to realise that my thinking was that I deserved this. I come to realise that this incident should never have happened and should have been handled differently. So my hope is the inquiry will bring about the necessary changes for the protection of the LGBT+ community. When a crime is committed, justice must be served.