

Submission
No 25

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Around 1994, late one Friday or Saturday night, I was leaving the gay nightclub "Pipers" in Newcastle West. The club was on the main street (Hunter St) in Newcastle. I was with 2 other lesbians. We were dressed in a way that looked like other heterosexual girls at the time (not butch) when a group of males drove by in an unknown car and threw a can of frozen coke and hit one of the girls on the arm. They were shouting gay hate at us as they did it.

It was around this time that another lesbian friend of mine got bashed quite severely and ended up in hospital. She was in a larger circle of my friends and I'm not sure of the exact details but I was deeply shocked that anyone would bash a woman who was as unassuming and non threatening as her.

In 1996 I attended the Sydney Mardi Gras march for the first time, and right at the end of the march, there was a group of Fred Nile supporters shouting gay hate speech directly at us. They were yelling quite forcefully at us and holding up signs with "you are an abomination" and "sinners go to hell". It was deeply traumatizing for me that we weren't even left alone at our own event. My male friend had to help direct me away from them as they crowded me and he told me "just ignore them".

Throughout this time I constantly heard anecdotal evidence of gay men from Newcastle being bashed around the time of Mardi Gras and we were all told not to go out alone to any gay venues anywhere in the state.