

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

Organisation: City of Sydney
Date Received: 8 November 2018

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The Director
Standing Committee on Social Issues
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Madam / Sir,

Inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010

The City of Sydney (the City) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Standing Committee on Social Issues regarding the Inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010.

The City's Local Government Area (LGA) has a significant Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) community, with approximately 18% of the City's population identifying as LGBTIQ¹. The City's LGA has a number of significant locations of a historical importance for the LGBTIQ community and continues to be a place that supports and celebrates this community.

The City supports the Inquiry into Gay and Transgender hate crimes between 1970 and 2010, many of which took place in the City LGA. The collective memory of the LGBTIQ community has been deeply affected by the trauma surrounding the deaths and the subsequent Police investigations that took place over this period of time. The City supports community efforts to work with all levels of government and other key stakeholders to document historical violence and the impacts of this on community.

The City acknowledges the recommendations outlined in ACON's *In Pursuit of Truth and Justice* report released in May 2018 and the NSW Police Force *Strike Force Parrabell* report released in June 2018.

In line with these reports, the City considers the following recommendations are important actions for the NSW Government and key agencies such as Police to address the issues of the past and to continue to build positive relationships with the community:

- an acknowledgment or formal apology by the NSW Parliament and/or the NSW Police Force to the LGBTIQ community for the inadequate or slow responses during this time;
- a review of existing legislation and policy to enhance protections for LGBTIQ communities and provide avenues for redress of violence and other related crimes;
- that the NSW Government continues to provide support for LGBTIQ safety through inclusion education programs for the NSW Police Force aimed at de-escalating violence experienced by LGBTIQ people and building resilience in LGBTIQ communities; and

¹ City of Sydney Wellbeing Survey, 2015

- development of collaborative and community-led violence prevention and support programs specifically for transgender communities, with the support of the NSW government.

The City commends the ongoing positive progress made by the NSW Police Force to address past policy and practice around such crimes and their efforts to make reparations to the community including:

- the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer (GLLO, LGBTIQ) program established over 25 years ago;
- the appointment of a Corporate Spokesperson for LGBTIQ; and
- the development of the NSW Police Force Strategy on Sexuality, Gender Diversity and Intersex 2016-2020.

To continue the progress made by the NSW Police Force, the City supports strategies to:

- better engage with the community to raise awareness about bias crimes and assist with preventing and responding to bias-related incidents; and
- Enable the collection of data by NSW Police on bias crime, based on sexual preference or gender identity to inform current and future policy and practice in preventing and responding to bias crime.

The City welcomes this inquiry as an important step in addressing and acknowledging the injustices of the past and continuing the work towards a future where people from our diverse communities, including the LGBTIQ community, feel safe and protected and experience equity within all aspects of the justice system.

Yours sincerely

Monica Barone
Chief Executive Officer