

**INQUIRY INTO GAY AND TRANSGENDER HATE CRIMES
BETWEEN 1970 AND 2010 - 57TH PARLIAMENT**

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I was having a swim at Bondi Beach in summer time about 1986. It was during the week, mid afternoon during school hours, I think on a Wednesday.

The time was about mid afternoon and I finished my swim and went to go to the toilet at Bondi Pavillion. I knew that the toilet was a beat but my intention was to use the toilet for its functional purposes. I used the toilet in the middle of the series of cubicles and I closed the door and sat down. No one else was in the toilets.

I heard a noise and noticed other people were there. Suddenly a steel cage bin was thrown into my cubicle and hit me in the head. It had some rubbish in it and I quickly pulled my pants up.

There were words said to the effect of "poofter!". I grabbed a bottle from the garbage and smashed the end off in an attempt to create a weapon to defend myself. I opened the door and there were four young male teenagers, one had long blonde hair. They were wearing street clothes.

One of them yelled "he's got a bottle" and they all ran away.

Blood was running down my head from the bin that hit me. The boys disappeared and I walked outside in a state of shock.

I went to the Bondi Lifesavers for first aid and one of the men there patched up my bleeding wound. I sat down for a minute and said "can I call the police" but the lifesavers appeared to not want to call the police. They said words to the effect of "we patched you up so we don't need to call the police. You can do that".

I caught the bus home and got out at Taylor Square. I attended my doctor at Taylor's Square Private Clinic. GPO saw me straight away and put some stitches in my head. I didn't go to the police because I did not feel they would take me seriously or ask the right questions. I was worried that I would be accused of attending the toilets for sex.

In 1989 I was the victim of another incident.

It was a hot summer's night in January and I went for a walk in Moore Park. I was looking for someone to have sex with.

There was a man there and he said "have you got any money". I said "no I don't bring money here". He started to walk away and then all of a sudden he turned around holding a baseball bat. He swung it hard and hit me on the leg above the knee. I went down on that leg and I looked up to where he was and couldn't recognise him as the place was quite dark and poorly lit. He was swinging the bat again at me and I moved my head and the bat landed on my left shoulder. It really hurt and I was crippled by the pain and again fell.

I picked up soil and twigs and threw them at the assailant's face. He said "ahhh you cunt!" and I (to my surprise) I grabbed the bat with two arms. He couldn't swing the bat and I could smell alcohol. I heard him slur his words while we wrestled.

I yelled out to whoever was around "Hey I've got him". He wrestled away and ran away.

The man had a hoodie on and I think when he originally asked me for money he was hiding the bat in his hoodie, along his arm and beside his head.

I staggered out and my arm and left leg was hurting badly. Thankfully I saw a man in his car who had been at the beat and he took me home. I was okay (I thought). I went upstairs to get my wallet and medicare card. I went to St Vincent's Emergency and was discharged after x-rays and a sling.

My glasses had come off and I went to find them the next day. They were in pieces.

I had bruises and my arm still hurt.

I went to see the police at Surry Hills Police Centre about a week later. A constable saw me at the front desk and filled out a form. He described my incident as a robbery despite me telling the police officer I was gay and at Moore Park for cruising that night. I noticed on the form that the incident was described as a robbery.

I later made a victims compensation claim through Inner City Legal Centre. I put in evidence of my broken glasses, injuries and damage to my clothes. I was awarded \$5,000 about six months later. That money was not worth my pain.

I lived alone and I felt like I had to stay home to nurse my injury. I was depressed and in fear.

I am concerned the NSW Police Force did not see this incident for what it was - a gay hate crime. Everyone else I talked to through the victim's compensation process saw that I was the victim of a gay hate crime including the Anti Violence Project run by the Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby who I also reported the incident to.