

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Submission to NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into Gay and Transgender Hates Crimes Between 1970 and 2010

I am a Sexual health and Infectious Diseases Specialist and a victim of homophobic violence suffered whilst undertaking physician training at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in the early 1990s. I had left Queensland to pursue a medical career in NSW due to the adverse political nature of Queensland and their attitude towards clinicians who were gay or treating persons living with HIV.

I was dragged from a telephone box near Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in the early 1990s, whilst answering a page one weekend, when on call for Palliative Care. I managed to break free of my attacker and sought refuge in a nearby house. I suffered facial bruising. I went to a local police station that day to make a statement and was turned away for the following reasons:

1. The description of the attacker was not complete enough for a search to be made. I gave height, ethnic appearance, colour of hair and eyes.
2. I didn't know the name of the attacker.
3. The Police thought it was amusing and laughed at me.

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital were equally unsupportive.

1. They refused to take a statement from me.
2. They requesting me to take **leave without pay** so staff and patients would not enquire into the cause of my facial bruising.
3. Implied that I was responsible for the attack due to my demeanour and clothing choices that identified me as being gay.
4. I was instructed that other gay specialist consultants who were discrete about their sexual identity at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital supported this stance.

The impact this had on my career has been immense. I suffered PTSD and was not able to walk or drive down Missenden Road for many years. I felt unsafe and unsupported in the work place eventually leaving specialist training and not re-entering till the mid-1990s at another hospital. With individuals at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital either stating the incident didn't happen, they didn't know about it, or that I should move on- it's clear that employment in that LHD/ Hospital would be impossible without acknowledgement and an apology or denial/litigation. I feel acknowledgement of the incident means that people who implied that I was responsible for the attack due to my demeanour and clothing that identified me as being gay, and who are still working at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital fear being judged by others and that it's easier to just pretend incidents like this never happen than being reminded that processes that prevented me from being safe, accessing sick leave or even lodging the incident weren't addressed.

My trust with the Police was affected. A subsequent assault by a gang of youths on my then boyfriend and myself in Alexandria was not reported as a result.

I write this submission to illustrate that it was not just the Police Force that was responsible for Gay and Transgender Hates Crimes occurring Between 1970 and 2010, but attitudes that pervaded through society including other areas of the NSW Public Service, including Health. They occurred and were enabled in places where you would think there was safety from Gay and Transgender Hate crimes. Apologies and safe places to report crimes need to be from structures other than just the Police.