

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

**Name:** Robyn Conlan and Robert Knight

**Date Received:** 27 February 2020

---

Partially  
Confidential

The Hon. Shayne Mallard  
C/- Parliament House  
Sydney  
by hand

27th February 2020

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

Dear Mr Mallard,

On the 21st July 2005 our son Simon went missing from Inner Sydney.

When we reported him missing to the station staff at Redfern Police Station, Simon's mother told the Constable that Simon identified as gay, the Constable responded "gays go missing all the time...he'll turn up."

The investigation continued at a moderate pace despite problems with the Coroner and the Coordinator of the Unsolved Homicide Team refusing to investigate the case because the matter hadn't been referred by the Coroner to the UHT.

Fast forward to the 15th February 2019, when the Police Commissioner wrote in response to Peter Rolfe, a gay friend of ours, who had written pointing out 3 matters which we felt hadn't been investigated, stating that "Redfern Police Area Command, will contact you to arrange a convenient time to meet".

Mr Mallard, we waited 17 days without contact, so Peter again wrote to the Commissioner on the 4th March 2019 out of frustration "that the family would hope that the inaction is not due to the fact that Simon identifies as gay" The response was immediate...at 9.15 the next morning, I phoned Peter stating that "Police don't discriminate between gay and straight. He then went on to tell Peter that he would organise a meeting between Simon's parents and Peter as a support person. When Peter asked about Duncan McNab, another gay person who has been supporting us, I said "that he didn't want any reporters there.

When Peter told us of these comments I emailed Peter that "I wouldn't attend any meeting with the police unless both Peter and Duncan were present" and Simon's mother emailed "I second that". This led to a meeting at the Redfern Police Station on the 8th April 2019 and we were in possession of an article which had been published in the Central Sydney Magazine authored by James Gorman, dated the 7th August 2013 in which the Crime Coordinator for the Redfern PAC, Sergeant Kirsty McIntosh stated that "Simon was well known around the Newtown area but there was some conjecture that he may have contracted HIV" and further down the article, Ms McIntosh states that "whilst there are doubts at the station about Mr Knight's well being, she thought that the now 40 year old was alive and well"

Mr Mallard, as you can imagine these comments upset Simon's family and friends, but what upset us even more was the fact that the Redfern PAC did not have a copy of the article. The Brief was transferred to Detective Sergeant [redacted] of the Kings Cross PAC for an

independent review. We were concerned that we hadn't heard any thing from the police so on the 8th August 2019, 4 months to the date of our last meeting at Redfern Police Station I wrote to Detective Sen. Constable [redacted] from the Redfern PAC enquiring about the delay. Detective [redacted] responded that [redacted] apologises for the delay and that the brief had taken longer than she had expected it to and that she had taken a month off from the investigation to fill in as the Crime Manager at an Eastern Suburbs PAC.

Fast forward to the 3rd September 2019 we together with Peter Rolfe attended Redfern Police Station to meet with Detective Chief Inspector [redacted] and Detective Senior Constable [redacted] to discuss the report from Detective [redacted]. When we asked if we could take a copy of the report with us we were told "no it's confidential" but we could read it in the room. After 15 minutes we could tell that [redacted] was getting impatient so we left.

Mr Mallard, Simon's family and friends are most dissatisfied with the progress of the investigation which commenced in July 2005 and here we are in February 2020 almost 15 years later....we wonder if it is because Simon identifies as gay....as the Constable at Redfern said to me and Simon's mother when we reported Simon missing in July 2005..."gays go missing all the time....he'll turn up"

Mr Mallard, our family supports a Judicial inquiry into LGBT crimes with power to call witnesses

Yours sincerely

Robyn Conlan  
Robert Knight