

LGBTQIA+ Consultative Committee Communique



LGBTQIA+ Consultative Committee - Communique 3

Meeting of 10 April 2025

Attendees:

Co-Chair Assistant Commissioner Leanne McCusker APM
Co-Chair Michael Woodhouse – ACON, CEO
Gil Beckwith – Sydney Gay Lesbian Mardi Gras, CEO
Barry Charles – First Mardi Gras 78ers Incorporated
Louise Duff – QTopia Brilliant Logic, Managing Director
Dr Justin Ellis – University of Newcastle School of Law & Justice
Peter Murphy – The Original 78ers Association
Garry Wotherspoon – QTopia, Director
Sebastian Zagarella – People with Disability
Detective Superintendent Darrin Batchelor
Detective Superintendent Grant Taylor
Detective Superintendent Amanda Hancock
A/Inspector Belinda Crowe
A/Inspector Allison Kachoyan
A/Inspector Ismail Kirgiz
Senior Sergeant Bernard Sloane
Dr Bridget Mottram – NSW Police
Shireen Karnib – NSW Police
Anna Yang – NSW Police

Background:

The Special Commission of Inquiry recommendations being discussed as part of the LGBTQIA+ Consultative Committee are number: 8 - Development and delivery of mandatory/ongoing LGBTIQ awareness training across NSWPF, 15 (b)- Interaction between Engagement and Hate Crime Unit and Unsolved Homicide Team in appropriate cases and 19 - The approach to bias crimes.

Meeting Highlights:

The fourth LGBTQIA+ Consultative Committee meeting was held at the Sydney Police Centre, Goulburn Street Surry Hills, on 10 April 2025.

The Committee was provided with an update from the State Crime Command on the case reviews of unsolved homicides in response to the Special Commission of Inquiry. Significant progress is being made, with 92 of 213 matters having been reviewed and finalised, which is an increase from the 71 matters in the January 2025 meeting. The Committee heard that the case reviews are taking a little longer than expected due to the diligence and thoroughness of investigations, which the Committee indicated their preference for over speed. The Homicide team will have a new Assistant Commissioner, Scott Cook APM, and new Commander, Superintendent Joseph Doueihy, who will commence on Monday 14 April 2025. They will receive a thorough briefing.

The Engagement and Hate Crimes Unit (EHCU) discussed with the Committee the increase in the recognition and appropriate classification of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes. This is a combination of an increase in reporting



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by the community, meaning links can be made and hate crimes are being recognised for what they are, and the great progress being made with police training. Currently, 15,000 staff have completed the mandatory training on hate crimes, with all remaining staff on track to have training completed by 30 June 2025. NSW Police and ACON also reported they are working together around targeted safety messaging for the community regarding a recent spate of hate crime-related attacks in one geographical area.

A guest speaker from the Crime Prevention Command spoke with the Committee about several training packages currently being developed for NSW Police staff. The mandatory LGBTQIA+ awareness training that will be rolled out to all staff in July 2025 is currently being developed, including editing of a filmed lived experience panel to include across the four modules. The Crime Prevention Command is also reviewing and revitalising the GLLO (LGBTQIA+ Officer) course, ensuring the training is fit for purpose and capturing the ways in which the GLLOs (LGBTQIA+ Officer) has changed over the years. In late April, members of the Crime Prevention Command will go to Goulburn Police Academy, along with three community members and an experienced GLLO, to present awareness training to the students. Finally, the Crime Prevention Command is currently working with Twenty10 to update training on working specifically with LGBTQIA+ youth.

Since the last meeting, NSW Police have been privileged to have two groups of officers attend QTopia. On 20 February 2025, the Engagement & Hate Crimes Unit participated in QTopia's guided tour, and on 20 March 2025, all Taskforce Atlas detectives (other than those on leave) attended a separate day. Officers were interested in the apology from Commissioner Fuller and all reported significant learnings from the day, including awareness and insight as to why their work is so significant to the community.

Finally, an update was provided to the Committee on the work being completed in the Pride in Police network. The network has been working with Zach Lopez from Pride in Diversity, who has been engaged to increase internal communication networks and put strategies in place. As a result, the Pride in Police Membership has increased from 191 to 211 members in the space of 6 weeks. The network will continue to work with Zach to increase numbers regionally, as well as examine awareness training for current and future leaders of the organisation, including future Sergeants, Inspectors, and Superintendents.