

LGBTQIA+ Consultative Committee Communique



LGBTQIA+ Consultative Committee - Communique 2

Meeting of 28 January 2025

Attendees:

Co-Chair Assistant Commissioner Leanne McCusker APM
Co-Chair Michael Woodhouse – ACON, CEO
Garry Wotherspoon – QTOPIA, Director
Gil Beckwith – Sydney Gay Lesbian Mardi Gras, CEO
Dr Jesse Hooley – Independent
Jospeh La Posta – Multicultural NSW
Dr Justin Ellis – University of Newcastle School of Law & Justice
Louise Duff – Qtopia Brilliant Logic, Managing Director
Nic Parkhill – Independent
Peter Murphy – The Original 78ers Association
Sebastian Zagarella – People with Disability
Steve Johnson – Family Representative
Zed Tintor – The Gender Centre
Assistant Commissioner Scott Whyte APM
Detective Superintendent Darrin Batchelor
Acting Superintendent Carlene Mahoney
Inspector Perri Hayes
Acting Inspector Allison Kachoyan
Acting Inspector Ismail Kirgiz
Senior Sergeant Bernard Sloane
Lise McCann – NSW Police
Graeme Stevens – 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 third LGBTQIA+ Consultative Committee meeting was held at the Sydney Police Centre, Goulburn Street Surry Hills, on 28 January 2025.

Guest speakers from NSWPF Forensic Evidence and Technical Service (FETS) Branch provided an update on the work completed by FETS in relation to gathering, analysing and using DNA evidence to further investigate unsolved murders as part of the NSWPF response to SCOI recommendations.



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The NSW Police Force conducted a statewide exhibit review between March and July 2024, relating to unsolved homicides. Significant enhancements to funding for NSW Health (FASS) has led to the expansion of the dedicated historic and cold case team.

The committee was provided with a brief overview on the timeframes associated with some of the investigative technologies, particularly the use of Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (FIGG). In response to Committee enquiries, it was explained that re-investigation of individual crimes may take up to 12 months.

The committee noted the efforts of the NSWPF in progressing these recommendations.

NSWPF continues work to develop training around LGBTQIA+ Hate Crimes, and arrangements for the lived experience filmed panel are progressing with filming planned for 6 March 2025. Work is also underway to examine the lived experience presentation for police students to ensure it provides relevant and contemporary information to academy graduates.

The NSWPF will continue the tradition of participating in the Mardi Gras Parade and Mardi Gras Fair Day. Arrangements for these events are progressing, and in the lead up to the events, Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLOs) will be engaging with the community, predominantly in the Oxford Street precinct from 13 February 2025.

Ongoing updates and advice on the implementation of the recommendations from the Special Commission of Inquiry, will continue to be provided to the Consultative Committee.

The Committee discussed ongoing initiatives to improve relations with young people, better inform young police officers and work by the community with police in relation to hate crimes.

The next Committee meeting is to be held in 10 April 2025.