

LGBTQIA+ Consultative Committee Communique



LGBTQIA+ Consultative Committee - Communique 1

Meeting of 09 October 2024

Attendees:

Assistant Commissioner Leanne McCusker APM
Co-Chair Michael Woodhouse – ACON, CEO
Alex Greenwich – MP for Sydney
Barry Charles - First Mardi Gras Inc
Dr Jesse Hooley – Independent
Dr Justin Ellis – University of Newcastle School of Law & Justice
Garry Wotherspoon – Qtopia, Director
Gil Beckwith – Sydney Gay Lesbian Mardi Gras, CEO
Jain Moralee – Twenty 10, CEO
Louise Duff – Qtopia Brilliant Logic, Managing Director
Thang No on behalf of Joseph Laposta – Multicultural, NSW
Peter Murphey – The Original 78ers Association
Detective Superintendent Darrin Batchelor
Detective Superintendent Daniel Doherty
Detective Superintendent Grant Taylor
Inspector Perri Hayes
Acting Inspector Ismail Kirgiz
Senior Sergeant Bernard Sloane
Acting Sergeant Matthew Reason

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 second LGBTQIA+ Consultative Committee meeting was held at ACON, 414 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills, on 09 October 2024.

Guest speakers from NSWPF State Crime Command and Engagement and Hate Crimes Unit provided an overview on the progression of the recommendations as well as providing updates on their achievements in their respective areas. Committee members were also provided with an update on the development of NSWPF training on LGBTIQ+ Hate Crimes, offering insight on how the recommendations have been implemented in the training and assessment strategy thus far.

AC McCusker APM confirmed that the Consultative Committee Terms of Reference was updated to be inclusive of pronouns. Dr Justin Ellis and Joseph Laposta were also confirmed as members of the Consultative Committee, and their membership is now reflected in the Terms of Reference.

Michael Woodhouse, CEO of ACON was also confirmed as the Co-Chair of the LGBTIQ+ Consultative Committee.



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Joint response from the Committee in response to the Government's response to the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTQIA+ Hate Crimes:

- Community welcomes the government's decision to accept all 19 recommendations of the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTQIA+ Hate Crimes.
- Community is interested in being updated on progress for all recommendations from the Special Commission of Inquiry, and particularly keen to collaborate in progression of recommendation 8.
- Committee members agree that they don't need details, just need confidence that it is moving forward.
- Community needs to be confident in NSWPF response to the recommendations being progressed.

Guest speakers from NSWPF State Crime Command, discussed their progress and current achievements under Taskforce Atlas, noting that the recommendations provided a catalyst for the Unsolved Homicide Team to receive more resources than ever before in history.

The committee reinforced the powerful influence of the Special Commission of Inquiry and the significant impact it has had on LGBTQIA+ unsolved homicides as well as the broader impact it has had in providing more resources for the Unsolved Homicide Team.

The committee were excited about the recommendations and echoed the need to maintain and put more resources into the world of unsolved homicides, not just for the LGBTQIA+ community, but for all.

Guest speakers from the Engagement Hate Crime Unit, provided an update on the newly developed University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Policing Hate Crime Course, which began its first session on Wednesday 04 August 2024. This 12-week program, created for frontline officers by Engagement and Hate Crimes Unit in collaboration with UTS and Associate Professor Phil Birch, focuses on policing hate crimes.

- The course is intended to create subject matter expertise across the NSWPF.
- Officers are chosen from all over NSW and from a range of ranks, not just at the recruitment stage, to develop expertise across NSW.
- Senior officers from London MET and Royal Canadian Mounted Police are also participants on this course which provides international experience and learnings.
- Two additional courses are planned and funded for 2025.

NSWPF training around LGBTQIA+ Hate Crimes is currently being developed and committee members were provided with an overview of the proposed education package. Consultative Committee members have also agreed to be involved in a filmed panel to support education and training development around LGBTQIA+ Hate Crimes, thus capturing diverse lived experiences.

The LGBTQIA+ Consultative Committee meeting will be holding an out of session meeting in November for further consultation on the development of NSWPF training, as per recommendation 8.

