

**INQUIRY INTO UNSOLVED MURDERS AND LONG-TERM
MISSING PERSONS CASES IN NEW SOUTH WALES
BETWEEN 1965 AND 2010**

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

I'm making this submission because I believe there needs to be a change in the laws and procedures in being able to find long term missing people and holding those accountable for their actions. No family should have to go through what my brother's and I have gone through. It's been a constant battle to get justice for our sister Cheryl.

I would like to see better communications between Police and families of missing persons as I feel there is not enough timely communications. I would recommend that people within the police and legal system do their job thoroughly and more research on finding information to use in these cases.

Why I recommend this is because some of my family members have found out more information on my sister's case then the police and DPP have found in their investigation's. This information could have been used in my sister's case and had a different outcome.

I'd now like for you to read my impact statement below.

In 1969 our little sister Cheryl was kidnapped and murdered when she was 3 years' old.

For the past 56 years it has been hard on my immediate family and, my brothers and their families. It's has been mentally draining on all of us, especially me and my brothers. But most of all it's been heart breaking.

When I was a young man growing up in the Illawarra/Wollongong area I was a surf lifesaver and done many surf carnivals at Fairy Meadow Beach.

I would always look around and wonder if she was near! Cheryl was on my mind every minute I was there.

Growing up, my brothers and I endured watching my parents never give up on finding their only daughter. This took a massive toll on our family. Then for them to pass away, never knowing the answers to the questions of what happened to their daughter or

even being able to lay Cheryl to rest. It was heart breaking to see, it mentally took its toll on me and my brothers growing up.

For me not to have my sister around, to see her grow into a woman or have

her own family and maybe grandchildren physically and mentally breaks

my heart. I see and think about my children and my brothers' families not getting to

meet or grow up with their Aunty around and maybe more cousins to play with. It affects me every time I think about it.

For me personally, I'm seeing a psychologist every month regarding Cheryl and the impact it has on me. When we were informed that a young man had made a confession to the police officers back in 1971 and the details in the confession it made

us all sick in the stomachs.

When hearing this confession, I pictured my sister's 3-year-old body lying there with all types of bugs and insects and other types of animals feeding off her little body, it made me feel sick. My psychologist I told this to said it is something

I should never have to picture in my head, and she was shocked to hear it. The information about the confession my brothers and I found out about by the police was heart breaking, very upsetting and mentally challenging to hear.

When mum and I attended the coroner's court to hear the report back in 2011 on Cheryl's case the information my mum and I found out in the police reports was incredible. My question is, "Why weren't my parents told about all their (NSW police) findings over the year's?" My parents would have pushed more for an

investigation, knowing the finding the NSW police had. Sadly, my father passed away before he got to know about any of this information. It was very upsetting to watch my mum sit there and listen to the information put forward to her at the coroner's court and to also watch her cry and try to process all the information she was hearing. It broke my heart to watch my mum hear this and break down.

If they had told my parents back in 1971, the information they had when the young man confessed, I feel my parents would have moved heaven and earth to search for their daughter (my sister) with the help of my dad's army friends.

I feel the search would've been more thorough if it was conducted at the time with the help of the Army, knowing the location on the body from the confession on the young man.

My mum never gave up on finding her daughter till her last dying breath.

She was in hospital with not long to live and my brother Paul and I were there.

Paul left the room for a moment, I looked at mum and said to her its time to go. We will never give up looking for Cheryl, she opened her eye's and stared at me for a moment then passed peacefully. It freaked me out because her eyes were closed the whole time that we were there with her in hospital. It was very upsetting to see my brother Paul's face when he came back in the room, and I told him she has gone.

Sorry I can't write anymore; it's too upsetting just to write what I have.

It has again, brought up all the thoughts and pain I live with every day.

For the past 56 years it has been hard without my sister.

It's something nobody should ever live with.

R..I..P CHERYL

Love forever and always in my heart.

I thank the committee for examining this critical issue and trust these insights will assist in improving outcomes for long term missing persons and their families.

I consent to this submission being published with my name.