

**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

Statement to NSW Inquiry

I had been on holiday with a male friend (X) and a female friend (Y) in Coolangatta. We were staying with a friend of a friend in a share house. I think the three of us flew into Queensland.

After a few weeks on approximately between 1 June-19 July 1980 my two friends and I planned to catch the train or bus heading south to return home. *Please note that X thinks it was later – around 22-31 August during the University term recess. He thinks we were on Bondi Beach on 21 August 1980.*

When we left Queensland we were at a transport hub in Coolangatta or Tweed Heads I think. Possibly we got the timetable wrong because X crossed the road to where trucks were parked and spoke to a driver who agreed to take us south. I think we were promised a ride to Sydney.

We accepted the ride and headed south with me next to the driver then Y I think and then X. It was still daylight when we left and we drove for a few hours when it got dark. The driver was very friendly with a huge smile almost all of the time. I think the conversation was just small talk. At one point in the conversation the driver's demeanour, very suddenly completely changed. It was instant. His smile vanished and he looked furious and became quiet. I was scared by this but couldn't say anything to the others due to the confined space, such that the driver could hear what I said.

After some more time, the driver said he needed to sleep and that two of us could sleep under the truck and one in the space behind the chairs. I think the truck pulled over opposite a service station with a dining/café area at Grafton. The three of us got out and X and Y said they would sleep outside. I was worried but they reassured me that they wouldn't leave and I would be safe. Despite my concern I was very tired and agreed to sleep in the cabin. I suppose I felt I had no alternative. I was 20 years old. I think there were a few tools and ropes in the cabin area where I slept. The driver slept across the chairs in the front of the truck. He was a short-ish, stocky man.

I don't remember anything else until I woke when it was light. As I became awake I realised the driver had moved my clothing while I slept and was touching my clitoris. Somehow, and I still do not understand this to this day, I did not panic. I did not respond. I pretended I was just rousing but not awake and I rolled over slightly hiding my face and just breathed normally. He hovered for a few minutes and then left the truck. When I heard the door close I waited a while and then left.

I found X and Y. I think they were across the road in the Service Station café. I recall the three of us standing back at the truck and he was there but I couldn't look at him. Maybe we went back to get bags. X and Y thanked him and we left and caught the train. I think I told X and Y what had happened a little while later. I didn't know what to do. I was shaking and felt sick and terrified all the way to Sydney. I thought if I reported it to the police they might not believe me and I might have to give evidence and that the driver would then be able to identify me and could track me down and kill me.

Some years later in the early 1990s when I had little children I was walking past the lounge room where the TV was on and I saw the same man being led by police somewhere. I haven't been able to find the actual news clip but had seen internet images and I deeply feel it was the same man who molested me. My reaction to the images was and still is visceral. I was terrified to see him and developed a sort of PTSD where I couldn't satisfy myself that all windows and doors were locked and I didn't want to leave my children alone at nights. I saw a Psychologist for a while and told him I had realised I had been molested by who I thought was Ivan Milat when I saw him on TV. I cant remember any follow-up and I was probably still too afraid to take it further.

Again in 2001 I saw Milat on TV. I gathered the courage and contacted the NSW Police and reported what had happened. I remember booking an office at my workplace to make the call. Maybe the call was a prearranged appointment. I was told that the officers involved had no reason to think Milat was in the location I identified. I was surprised but felt there was no more I could do. I have mentioned my belief that I was molested by him to family and one family member saw details of this inquiry in the media and told me.

In January this year:

- I rang Crimestoppers PH 131444 and it immediately forwarded to Queensland Police
- Next I rang 02/43520444 and waited for 2 hours and 14 minutes and was put through to NSW Crimestoppers I think PH 131444
- Incident Number 11847409 – the officer was Lucy.
- Lucy told me there is a record of me ringing in 2001 (Case Number 2396522B2X6)

I am so sorry it took me so many years to report this. When it first happened I was terrified. I hope this information is helpful to give more evidence and possibly provide peace to some families still not knowing what has happened to their loved ones. I feel so lucky.