

SOME QUOTES FROM SNIFFER DOGS COMPLAINANTS

**1. Health Education Officer – specialising in drug and alcohol
Upon being searched at 11pm, Saturday at Oxford Hotel, King St
Newtown – nothing found**

“This action ruined my night” “I felt intimidation and embarrassment in front of strangers and friends, as well as people that I worked with or who worked with organisations which dealt with my workplace”

“The personal cost to my reputation and the trauma of such a severely intimidating and unjustified interruption to the simple pleasure of enjoying an evening out relaxing from work and socialising lead me to feel this action was completely unwarranted in the circumstances.”

“They took me outside” “then asked me to step over to the wall and raise my arms and they then patted down my body and went through my wallet and asked me to empty all my pockets.”

“All those inside the moderately filled venue, along with the staff, watched me led outside.”

“After the search was over and nothing was I found. I returned to the bar and was refused service.”

**2. Laboratory Manager, Electronics R & D Company
Searched at 8.30pm at Blacktown Station – returning from work**

“All this took place on the main concourse of the station, in full view of other people using the station.”

“I felt extremely embarrassed by the whole incident.”

“I do not accept (sniffer dogs) can be used to randomly identify persons, who are innocently going about their business, as possible felons.”

“I asked what if refused to turn out my pockets or allow the officers to search my briefcase. The reply was that I

would have been arrested for suspected possession of drugs.”

“I consider this to be a violation of my basic human right to be able to go about my affairs, unmolested”

3. Father of 15 year old school girl searched at Eastwood Station

“My girl was shocked and embarrassed in public, in front of her school friends.”

“I believe that any measure of public benefit is far outweighed by the oppressive police state atmosphere created by the warrantless searches.”

4. Parent of 15 year old approached but not searched by police running sniffer dog operation at Hornsby Station after school.

“My 14 year old was harassed and threatened with fines 2 days in a row by members of the police force who were present in intimidating numbers with sniffer dogs, for what appeared to be nothing more than talking to friends in a stationary position”

“She was informed that she was ‘obstructing’ before being threatened with a fine if she did not move”

“My daughter has been profoundly affected by her experience” and “now has a totally different perception of the police, the law, and the state we live in.”

5. USA resident working at Plastic Nightclub – searched at entrance when club was shut – nothing was found

“They found my girlfriends bankcard and implied it was stolen by saying it didn’t look like me”

6. Man with 2 managers from work searched at Forrester’s Bar in Surry Hills

“He (the police) returned my bag saying he thinks I have used it to carry marijuana. This is absolute rubbish! He said he was suspicious of me and took my name and address”

“I felt totally humiliated in front of my managers and the onlookers in the pub”

“I cannot believe I was treated like a criminal just because a dog decides it likes me”

“My managers now suspect I deal or take drugs and I am too embarrassed to return to the Forresters Hotel”

7. Visiting DJ at Berlin Nightclub – searched while in DJ booth – nothing found

“I was told I was quarantined from the DJ booth and that I would have to be searched before I could do anything. This caused great dilemma to the club.”

“I asked the police could they talk to me in the backroom or something of that nature. She (police) ignored me and continued with the search”

“I did not appreciate being harassed by them in the club, especially in the VIP section where everyone could see me.”

“While talking to me, he was flashing his flashlight in my eyes, as he did that I asked him many times to move the light from my eyes, he said he could not see me”

“Since they did not find anything on me they told me they would be back.”

“In the end I felt alienated, due to the fact i was the only person in the club who got searched and ironically I was the only black person in the club that night.”

POLICE QUOTES

Superintendent Gary Hodsden, Surry Hills LAC told Sydney Star Observer in regard to the 1am raid on the Exchange Hotel on Sunday, 24th June 2001

“Obviously, if you take the drugs, the dogs wont spot you but you are at serious risk if you take drugs all at once”

“On Saturday night when the lights went up, there were people throwing things on the floor popping things in their mouths, but we as a service can only tell you that it is dangerous and will seriously risk your health.”

Police Officer on commercial news on Sunday 24th June after Exchange Hotel raid.

“The sniffer dogs are great. It’s like having x-ray vision”