



POLICE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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Weak Sentencing for Thomas Kelly Killer – The Ultimate Betrayal

The Police Association of NSW is disgusted at the sentence given to the killer of Thomas Kelly in the Supreme Court today. Kieran Loveridge will spend a minimum of four years behind bars for the king-hit manslaughter of Thomas.

Loveridge pleaded guilty earlier this year to killing the 18-year-old, after approaching him at random on Victoria St, Kings Cross, on July 7 last year.

Police Association President, Scott Weber said, “How can one young man’s life be only worth four years?”

“Police Officers are devastated and our hearts go out to the family, their pain must be indescribable. This is the ultimate betrayal for the Kelly family and the betrayal of the entire community whose safety continues to be put at risk.

“In high density areas of alcohol concentration there needs to be preventative measures to stop the problem before it starts.”

Thomas, who was on a night out with mates and his new girlfriend, was hit once by Loveridge and fell instantly to the ground. His life support was turned off two days later by his shattered parents.

The court heard that earlier that night, as he consumed a carton of Smirnoff pre-mixed drinks with friends, Loveridge warned: “I swear I’m going to bash someone.” He also committed a series of other assaults on other young men that night but none suffered injuries as devastating as those of Thomas.

Mr Weber said, “The death of Thomas Kelly should have been a real wake-up call to the NSW Government to act on curbing alcohol-related violence. By refusing to take serious action to address alcohol-related violence, the NSW Government is continuing to allow the community to be put at risk.

“We can never return Thomas to his heartbroken parents but we must make sure no one else dies from such a meaningless act of cowardice and alcohol fuelled violence. We need to bring back respect and decency to the streets of Sydney. And for this we need the Government to listen and act.

“We know what works – a suite of simple measures like reduced trading hours and lock-outs. The Government needs to take a good look at the statistics and take some serious steps.

“The measures introduced in Newcastle have seen a 37 percent decrease in after dark assaults and 26 percent decrease in emergency department admissions. These reductions have been verified by the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research as well as independent academic studies. Assaults on police also fell a similar amount.”

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PRESS RELEASE