

MONDAY 2 APRIL 2012

JUSTICE PRECINCT OFFICES
160 MARSDEN STREET
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150**MEDIA STATEMENT****Parole refused for two men jailed over the murder
of police officer Glenn McEnallay**

Two of four men jailed over the shooting murder of police officer Glenn McEnallay in 2002 will remain in jail after being refused parole by the State Parole Authority.

Meli Lagi had his parole refused at a private meeting last Thursday (29 March). A review hearing will only be held if Lagi convinces the Authority, via an application, that a hearing is warranted.

The 32-year-old – found not guilty of the murder of Senior Constable McEnallay but guilty of firearms offences – was sentenced to almost 13 years prison with a non-parole period of almost nine years.

The Authority is concerned Lagi has not addressed his offending behaviour.

A Probation and Parole report stated, “It is considered imperative that Mr Lagi complete a violent offenders program prior to gaining a positive recommendation for release to parole.”

On Friday 23 March, SPA refused parole to John Taufahema, one of Lagi’s co-offenders. Taufahema – found not guilty of the murder of Senior Constable McEnallay but guilty of manslaughter – will not be eligible for parole again until 2014. His sentence is 11 years with a non-parole period of seven years.

The Authority refused 33-year-old Taufahema parole after he was twice suspended from a violent offenders program.

The State Parole Authority is concerned Taufahema has not addressed his offending behaviour and his release is not supported by the Probation and Parole Service or the Serious Offenders Review Council (SORC).

A Probation and Parole report said, “Mr Taufahema’s offending behaviour is of the most serious gravity. It would appear fundamental to his release that he complete a violent offenders program.”

A SORC report stated, “Council cannot conceive any rational or reasonable basis for recommending that this offender be considered by SPA for release on parole.”

John’s brother and co-offender, Motekiai Taufahema, will have his parole considered at a public hearing late this month. The 35-year-old was also convicted of manslaughter and is serving an 11-year imprisonment with a non-parole period of seven years.

The fourth co-offender, 32-year-old Sione Penisini, is serving a total sentence of 36 years and won’t be eligible for parole until 2029.

Media inquiries: 0419 258 290