

Media Alert

NSW Crime Commission appeals for information on missing Bathurst teenager

Friday, 22 November 2024

The NSW Crime Commission is appealing to the public for information regarding the abduction and suspected murder of **Jessica Small** from the Bathurst region in 1997. Jessica has not been seen or heard from since the abduction.

Jessica's family are still seeking answers today about what happened to their daughter:

"We are hoping that this process will finally give our family some closure. Even though it's been a long 27 years, we have never given up hope of getting answers about our daughter and sister".

New leads have emerged, with more witnesses identified to open fresh avenues into the search for Jessica. The NSW Crime Commission is working with Police using newly gathered information to find Jessica. To support this search for answers, we ask anyone with details they think could be helpful to come forward. Any piece of new information could be the key to solving this case.

The NSW Government is offering a \$1 million reward for anyone who has knowledge or information leading to the arrest and subsequent conviction of any person/s responsible for Jessica's disappearance.

Jessica was last publicly seen on Russell Street, Bathurst on the evening of Saturday, 25 October 1997 near the 'Amuse Me' amusement centre.

Jessica and a female friend were trying to hitch-hike to a house on Hereford Street, Bathurst.

Around 11:10pm, the girls accepted a ride from a man driving a white sedan who stopped to pick them up.

The driver stopped the car several hundred metres before the Hereford Street address and turned off the headlights, attempting to detain and assault both girls.

Jessica's friend managed to escape thinking Jessica was running behind her to seek help from nearby residents, but the friend realised Jessica was not with her and the car had driven off.

The last sighting of the car was of it travelling towards Hill End – near Duramana Road and Willott Close, Eglinton.

The NSW Crime Commission and NSW Police are appealing to anyone who may have information relevant to the disappearance and whereabouts of Jessica Small. Information provided to the NSW Crime Commission will be treated in strict confidence.

Please contact Hany Elbatoory, Director Criminal Investigations at the NSW Crime Commission by either:

- Phone: 0479 187 202
- Email: h2elbatoory@crimecommission.nsw.gov.au

Alternatively, the public can contact Crime Stoppers by either:

- Website: <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>
- Phone: 1800 333 000

