

Secret gay violence takes toll

CHRIS CLARKE

A CORONER investigating a murder-suicide has found that the effects of domestic violence in the gay community remain "largely hidden", raising concerns about a lack of support services for victims.

Coroner Terry Ryan yesterday concluded that Brisbane chef Marcus Peter Volke murdered his transgender wife Mayang Prasetyo by stabbing her in the neck on October 3, 2014.

Volke dismembered Ms Prasetyo's body and placed her feet in a stockpot that was later uncovered by police after reports of a foul odour coming from the pair's Tenerife unit.

In handing down his findings, Mr Ryan echoed sentiments that Queensland lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex victims of violence were facing "unique" stressors that were not being addressed properly.

"The true nature and extent

of domestic violence suffered by (LGBTI) members of the community remains largely hidden," Mr Ryan said.

The Coroner's findings have prompted the LGBTI Legal Service to call for a light to be shone on the issue.

President and principal solicitor Matilda Alexander said domestic violence in the LGBTI community was under-reported. "People are reluctant to report it and there's a general lack of services," she said.

The inquest was also held to scrutinise the tactics of investigating police, but Mr Ryan cleared officers of any wrongdoing.

While being questioned by officers at the unit, Volke managed to flee the scene and soon after took his own life in a dumpster.

In his findings, Mr Ryan praised officers. "I am satisfied that the investigation was thoroughly and professionally conducted," he said.