

# Spray before fatal shots on Tyler Cassidy

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**POLICE sprayed Tyler Cassidy with capsicum foam in the face before he ran into a skate park where he was shot dead, a court has heard.**

Northcote Plaza Liquorland employee Daniel Gregory told Tyler's inquest yesterday that the officers were yelling at Tyler, 15, after arriving at the plaza in two divisional vans in December 2008.

*"I could see (Tyler) standing about four metres in front of the van," he said in his tendered statement.*

*"I then saw the police officer spray the male for two to three seconds.*

*"It was quite a lot of spray and it definitely connected with the male's face and I think some of his upper body.*

*"I think the male held up one of his arms, looking like he was trying to block the spray.*

*"I later heard that it was capsicum foam that was used, which explains why it appeared to be thick like bath foam.*

*"After being sprayed, the male turned around and ran towards the skate park.*

*"I then saw two police officers start to chase him and another two police followed the first two."*

Those four officers later surrounded the 15-year-old.

Three opened fire as Tyler advanced on a leading senior constable who had fired a warning shot into the ground and two rounds aimed at the teenager's thighs, the inquest has been told.

Mr Gregory said Tyler had earlier confronted him with two knives in the bottle shop.

*"I was staring at the knives and he started talking to me in an aggressive voice,"* Mr Gregory said in his statement.

*"He said, 'You better call the cops now because there is a mad man in the plaza with two knives and he is going to kill someone'.*

*"I could see he was talking about himself ... I was worried if I said the wrong thing he might have taken a swipe at me with the knives."*

Mr Gregory said Tyler then walked behind the counter with the knives out in front of himself while saying, *"I'm serious."*

*"As he was walking away he turned around and said something like, 'Someone's going to die if you don't call the cops now. I'm serious'."*

Mr Gregory told police he later heard a volley of shots after the four officers chased Tyler into the park.

*"I think there was a pause about midway between some of the shots,"* he said.