

**Royal Commission  
into the Management of Police Informants**

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT WILLIAM SNEDDON**

1. My full name is Robert William Sneddon.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 19 March 2019. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.
3. I have retired from Victoria Police. I was previously employed by Victoria Police between March 1987 and 31 July 2018.

**Educational background and employment history (Q1)**

4. I joined Victoria Police in 1987 and graduated from the Victorian Police Academy in 1988. Details of my progression through the ranks and my relevant training are contained in Annexure A to this statement.

**Involvement or association with any investigation which dealt with Ms Gobbo (Q2)**

5. I have limited recollection of the preceding events and have not had the opportunity to review my diaries, however, my legal representatives had advised me of the relevant entries referred to in my statement.<sup>1</sup>
6. I do not specifically recall having had any dealings with Ms Gobbo.

*Asset Recovery / Criminal Proceeds Squad*

7. My diary indicates that on 14 June 1999 I attended Bridport Street with Detective Senior Constable Kira Olney. We left the office at 11.30am. My diary suggests that DSC Olney and I provided surveillance in relation to a meeting with DSC Jeff Pope and [REDACTED] informer". We left at 1.30pm.
8. I expect that [REDACTED] is a human source from the Major Fraud Group but I have no independent recollection of this source number, or who it might relate to.
9. I don't have any recollection of this meeting in South Melbourne.

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<sup>1</sup> VPL.0005.0226.0001.



10. I have been asked whether my diary contains any reference to Operation Ramsden. I have not located any references. I do not recall Operation Ramsden nor does it mean anything to me.
11. I have been asked whether Lewenberg Solicitors means anything to me. I recall having dealings with Lewenberg Solicitors in relation to various court proceedings.
12. My diary indicates that on 1 July 1999 I attended a meeting at the National Crime Authority (NCA) "re [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]" would be a reference to a particular job. I do not recall what job [REDACTED] refers to and I have no recollection of this meeting.

*Purana Taskforce*

13. I was a member of the Criminal Proceeds Squad embedded in Purana Taskforce from 2004.
14. The Criminal Proceeds Squad was a standalone support squad rather than an investigative team. We assisted with asset confiscation matters that arose in relation to other investigations.
15. I've been shown a document which suggests that on 21 May 2004 I was tasked with canvassing financial institutions for bank accounts held in the names of Terence and Christine Hodson.<sup>2</sup>
16. I do not recall receiving this instruction, and I do not recall if I undertook this review. However, I would have conducted hundreds if not thousands of these types of enquiries in my role. In the ordinary course, an information report would be created once I had conducted an enquiry of this type.
17. I recall becoming aware at some stage that Petra Taskforce existed but have no specific knowledge about it.
18. On 13 May 2008, I received an email from Detective Senior Constable Tamara Chippendall attaching an affidavit for a search warrant in relation to the Commonwealth Bank and Adelaide Bank to be sworn by Detective Acting Inspector Jim O'Brien.<sup>3</sup> I do not specifically recall this affidavit.
19. I expect that I received this affidavit because the Criminal Proceeds Squad would have obtained some of the financial information contained in the affidavit.

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<sup>2</sup> VPL.0100.0023.6567

<sup>3</sup> VPL.6127.0015.5239, VPL.6127.0015.5240



*Briars Taskforce*

20. In 2012 I was invited to join Briars Taskforce. I ultimately did not take up this opportunity.

**How I learned, or was given reason to believe, Ms Gobbo was providing information (Q3)**

21. I have no recollection of Ms Gobbo being an informer or human source.
22. I recall being aware of a human source 3838. I think that I suspected in 2008 when I was embedded in Purana that "3838" was someone prominent, however, I had no need to know anything about registered sources for the purposes of my work. I was never interested in knowing more than I needed to get my work done.
23. I do not recall knowing that 3838 was Ms Gobbo.
24. I only became aware that Ms Gobbo was 3838 and had been providing information or assistance to Victoria Police this year through reports in the media after the suppression orders were lifted.

**Awareness of others (Q4)**

25. I have no knowledge of the matters referred to in questions 4, 5, 7 - 12.

**Personal contact with Ms Gobbo (Q6)**

26. My only contact with Ms Gobbo is set out in answer to question 2.

**Training (Q13)**

27. I do not have any specific recollection of training that I have completed in relation to any of these topics. Each of these topics would have been canvassed during the Academy and Detective Training School as well as being re-visited in a number of online training courses delivered by Victoria Police.

**Other information (Q14)**

28. I have nothing further to add.

Dated: 29 November 2019



Robert William Sneddon

### Annexure A

1. A summary of the major roles I have undertaken and my progression through the ranks is as follows:
  - a. 1989 – 1993: Constable, Coburg and Cheltenham Police Stations;
  - b. 1993 – 1995: Senior Constable, Transit Police;
  - c. 1995 – 1997: Detective Senior Constable, Major Fraud Group;
  - d. 1997 – 2019: Detective Leading Senior Constable, Asset Recovery / Criminal Proceeds Squad;
  - e. 2019: Resigned from Victoria Police.
2. In 1990 I was awarded the Highly Commended Certificate for my professionalism during an incident when I was a uniformed police officer.
3. In 2015, I received the National Police Service Medal recognising time served with Victoria Police.



Robert Sneddon