

This document has been redacted for Public Interest Immunity claims made by Victoria Police.
These claims are not yet resolved.

Royal Commission

Into the Management of Police Informants

STATEMENT OF PETER NANCARROW

Personal information

1. My name is Peter Nancarrow.
2. I retired from Victoria Police on 5 August 2005.
3. In preparing this statement, I have had access to my diaries for the period 2004-2006. I have not had access to any Victoria Police files, or my emails.

Personal information

Question 1: Educational background and employment history

4. I hold the following qualifications:
 - (a) Associate Diploma Police Studies;
 - (b) Bachelor of Arts (Police Studies); and
 - (c) Master of Arts (Police Studies).
5. I commenced constable training in 1996. In 1972 I was promoted to Senior Constable. In 1976, I was promoted to Sergeant. In 1983, I was promoted to Senior Sergeant. In 1985, I was promoted to Inspector.
6. In 1988, I was promoted to Chief Inspector. In this position, I undertook duties associated with the Region 13 Pilot Model of Policing and was then seconded to the Airlie Officers College.
7. In 1990, I was promoted to Superintendent, in the Operations Department (Administration). In 1994, I was promoted to Commander, Operations Department East Region. In 1997, I was promoted to Assistant Commissioner, Ethnical Standards Department. In 1998, I was transferred to the General Policing Department.
8. In 2000, I was promoted to Deputy Commissioner. In that position, I held the Policy and Standards Portfolio, followed by the Specialist Operations Portfolio. In this period, I also approved the Terms of Reference for, and oversaw, the Drug Squad Review which took place

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during the latter part of 2001. From 1 July 2004, I was one of two Deputy Commissioner's to the Chief Commissioner. In this period, I also:

- (a) was the Chair of the CEJA Task Force Steering Committee;
- (b) was the sponsor of the Informer Management Unit Project;
- (c) managed the Interagency Review of the Helicopter Capacity Requirements of Victoria Police and Ambulance Victoria;
- (d) was on the Board of St Johns Ambulance; and
- (e) was a Victoria Police Representative on the Boards of Crime Stoppers Victoria, Crime Stoppers Australia and Crime Stoppers International;
- (f) was Acting Chief Commissioner during the Chief Commissioner's absence.

Question 2

9. I had no involvement of this kind.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Questions 3-8)

Question 3

10. I learned that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police by reading media reports relating to "Witness X" in 2018-2019, and by reading media reports about this Royal Commission.

Question 4

11. I have no knowledge of these matters. I have not located any comments about these matters in those copies of my diaries which I have reviewed.

Question 5

12. I have no knowledge of these matters. I have not located any comments about these matters in those copies of my diaries which I have reviewed.

Question 6

13. I had no personal contact with Ms Gobbo.

Question 7

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14. I have no knowledge of these matters. For completeness, I have identified two diary entries that refer to Ms Gobbo.
15. The first diary entry is from 20 January 2004 (Diary Page 294). I have attached the entry to this statement. It provides that I was advised by Danye Maloney at the CEJA Steering Committee meeting:¹

██████████ – members have spoken [to] ██████████ Negotiating with GOBBO re ██████████ this week – [unreadable] - Foster by NSW:

* CEJA

* ACC

*NSW (██████████ is their target)

* ██████████ in NSW (Foster)

Awaiting advice from A/C Overland re return to work by ██████████.

16. I have no independent recollection of these events. However, I interpret this entry to mean that members of Victoria Police were negotiating with Ms Gobbo as legal representative for ██████████ ██████████ for the purpose of ██████████ ██████████
17. I do not know if Ms Gobbo was a human source at that time. I interpret the reference to Ms Gobbo as being a reference to an ordinary interaction between the legal representative of an accused person and the Victoria Police in relation to an active investigation. It was standard practice for contact of this kind to be made through legal representatives. I do not know who ██████████ is (or was).
18. The second diary entry is from 7 April 2004 (Diary Page 86). I have attached the entry to this statement. It reads:²

“1630 Steve Fontana

██████████ got ██████████ evidence ██████████ ██████████ OPP considering having evidence of ██████████ heard. GOBBO has been approached by ██████████ ██████████ OPP to consider”.

19. I do not independently recall the events I have described in my diary. However, I interpret the entry to mean that Acting Assistant Commissioner, Ethical Standards Department, Steve Fontana had informed me that:

¹ VPL.0005.0187.0001 at .0005

² VPL.0005.0187.0001 at .0010

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- (a) [REDACTED] had been sentenced to [REDACTED] and had [REDACTED]; and
- (b) [REDACTED] had approached GOBBO and that the OPP was considering its position in relation to that person (presumably whether it was willing to enter into a plea deal).

20. I do not know if Ms Gobbo was a human source at that time. I interpret the reference to GOBBO as being an ordinary interaction between the legal representative of an accused person and the Victoria Police in relation to a potential plea.

Concerns in relation to use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Questions 9-11)

Question 9

21. I have no knowledge of these matters. I have not located any comments about these matters in those copies of my diaries which I have reviewed.

Question 10

22. I have no knowledge of these matters. I have not located any comments about these matters in those copies of my diaries which I have reviewed.

Question 11

23. I have no knowledge of these matters. I have not located any comments about these matters in those copies of my diaries which I have reviewed.

Other relevant matters (Questions 12-14)

Question 12

24. I have no knowledge of these matters. I have not located any comments about these matters in those copies of my diaries which I have reviewed.

Question 13

25. I completed a number of courses during my time at Victoria Police and do not currently have access to the content of those courses. However, I received training in the course of constable training, in various internal courses and in the course of obtaining the qualifications I set out above.

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Question 14

26. I am not aware of any such matters, other than as set out below.
27. I saw a substantial amount of material about the pilot program and the establishment and formation of the SDU during my career. I do not have any of this material in my possession, but I anticipate that it will be on the relevant Victoria Police files. The material included:
- (a) briefing papers and drafts of the Informer Management Policy (which was published in 2003);
 - (b) briefing papers about the work of the Australian Human Source Working Group;
 - (c) briefing papers, research papers and minutes of meetings about the Dedicated Human Source Management Project;
 - (d) briefing papers, research papers and minutes of meetings about the Dedicated Source Unit pilot project.
28. In addition, I have identified the following entries in my Victoria Police diaries that are relevant to the above category:³
- (a) 10 June 2004 (Diary Page 155);
 - (b) 6 July 2004 (Diary Page 175);
 - (c) 20 July 2004 (Diary page 184);
 - (d) 3 August 2004 (Diary 201);
 - (e) 4 August 2004 (Diary 204);
 - (f) 10 August 2004 (Diary 210);
 - (g) 13 August 2004 (Diary 214);
 - (h) 18 March 2005 (Diary Page 89); and
 - (i) 31 March 2005 (Diary Page 97).
29. Copies of these diary pages are attached to this statement.

³ VPL.0005.0187.0001 at .0012 - .0037

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30. For completeness, I have set out below a summary of my role and responsibilities in relation to the pilot program and the establishment and formation of the SDU and the documents I anticipate I would have seen.
31. In 2003, I was involved in the establishment of the Victoria Police Informer Management Policy. I have been shown a copy of the Victoria Police gazette from 22 September 2003.⁴ That gazette, which sets out a summary of the new policy, has refreshed my memory of these events. Under the new policy, an Informer Management Unit was established. Acting Commander Ian Thomas was in charge of the Unit and reported to me.
32. At the same time, the Australian Crime Commissioner's Forum established the Australian Human Source Working Group. I was not on the Working Group, but representatives from Victoria Police reported back about its work.
33. In late 2003, I was appointed as the Project Sponsor for a project directed to developing best practice in informer handling (the **Project**). In the course of preparing this statement, I was shown a Project Plan dated 2 January 2004, a document dated 19 January 2004 headed "POSC Meeting – Dedicated Human Source Management Teams" and a "Concept Proposal" dated 27 January 2004.⁵ I do not independently recall these documents, but their contents accord with my general recollection of events. I note that my signature appears, along with the date 2 February 2004, on the Concept Proposal.
34. I was not directly involved in the Project itself. As Project Sponsor, my role was to ensure that adequate resources were allocated to the Project. I anticipate that, in the course of the Project, I received regular briefings about the work on the Project and its proposed recommendations.
35. Separately to the Project, the State Intelligence Division was responsible for the Dedicated Human Source Handling Teams project (**DHSHT**). The DHSHT reported in 2004. I have been shown a memorandum headed "Effectiveness in the management of Informers and Human Sources", dated 3 June 2004. Regarding these documents:
- (a) They identify that I was the Project Sponsor for the DHSHT. I do not now have an independent recollection of being the Project Sponsor, but I accept that it is likely that I was.
 - (b) The memorandum is in my name, although it appears to have been signed by my Staff Officer. This happened from time to time.
 - (c) The memorandum attached documents headed 'Issue Cover Sheet' concerning "Victoria Police effectiveness in the management of Informers and Human Sources",

⁴ VPL.0100.0137.0391

⁵ VPL.0100.0056.0588, VPL.0100.0056.0939, VPL.0100.0243.0001 at .0017 - .0031

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and a document headed "Dedicated Source Handling Teams Project". I do not independently recall these documents, but I accept that I would have seen them when issued.⁶

36. Following the Project and the DHSHT, a decision was made to implement a 6 month trial of a dedicated human source management unit. The pilot project was to be evaluated to assess its effectiveness. Terms of reference were prepared for the proposed Dedicated Source Unit.
37. I have been shown the minutes of the Human Source Dedicated Teams Coordination Committee Meeting from 10 June 2004.⁷ I do not have any independent recollection of the meeting, but the minutes accord with my general recollection of these events. I note a later set of minutes record an issue with one item from these minutes.⁸
38. I have been shown a document headed "Issue Cover Sheet" and dated 11 June 2004.⁹ I do not independently recall this document. However, my name is on the distribution list and it appears to be a document that would typically have been distributed to me.
39. I have been shown the minutes of the Dedicated Source Handling Team Project minutes from 6 July 2004,¹⁰ which record approval being given for the 6 month trial of the Dedicated Source Unit. I do not have any independent recollection of the meeting, but the minutes accord with my general recollection of these events.
40. The trial of a Dedicated Human Source Unit took place between 1 November 2004 and May 2005. I was not involved in the selection of the human sources who were included in the trial. I have no recollection of any discussions about the handling and dissemination of information that may have been subject to legal professional privilege or the use of a legal practitioner as a human source in the course of the trial. I have no recollection of asking for, or seeing, any legal advice about this in the course of the trial.
41. I am informed that the unit became permanent after the trial. I do not recall whether this happened before or after I retired.



Peter Nancarrow

Date:

11 October 2019

⁶ VPL.0005.0027.0001 at .0006 - .0048 only

⁷ VPL.0100.0048.0668

⁸ VPL.0100.0048.1277

⁹ VPL.0100.0048.0669

¹⁰ VPL.0100.0048.1277