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01-21803838-160905

Peter Smith-O

Okay, test 1, 2. Yeah, lights are coming on. All right. It is Friday evening, the 16th of September 2005 technological hitch here. 16th of September 2005 and it's [redacted] waiting to see a new source brought here by members of MDID. Do we need to name them?

Sandy White-O

Mm.

Peter Smith-O

It'll be blatantly obvious anyway, if anyone ever does listen to this recording, that it's Nicola Gobbo. The time which is - I'll make it 1812.

(TELEPHONE RINGS)

Sandy White-O

Sandy White-O

[redacted] (On telephone) Hi. Yeah, I'm just about to have a meeting yeah, yeah, I'll be a while, yeah.

(END OF TELEPHONE CALL)

Peter Smith-O

She's actually our last

Sandy White-O

Yeah?

Peter Smith-O

Yeah this is

Sandy White-O

Mm.

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(KNOCK ON DOOR)

Peter Smith-O

Gents.

STEVE: How you going?

MS GOBBO: . Nicola. How are you going?

Sandy White-O

Sandy White-O

Peter Smith-O

I'm . This is

Peter Smith-O

Peter Smith-O

:

MS GOBBO: Hi, ^{Peter Smith-O} Seen you somewhere before.

Peter Smith-O

: Yeah.

MS GOBBO: Can't think of where though.

Peter Smith-O

: Yeah, in court no doubt.

MS GOBBO: Yeah. I don't remember, but - - -

Peter Smith-O

: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

Grab a seat.

Peter Smith-O

: Thanks for coming.

MS GOBBO: Okay.

Sandy White-O

Want a cup of tea or a drink or something?

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MS GOBBO: Yeah. Like, a couple of bottles of red would be good.

Sandy White-O

Oh, we can give you a glass of red
you want a cup of tea or something?

MS GOBBO: No, I'm fine. I'll be fine.

Peter Smith-O

: Make yourself at home.

Sandy White-O

_____ Sit down, guys. How's the traffic?

MS GOBBO: Shocking.

Sandy White-O

Yeah, it's Friday night.

Peter Smith-O

: I'm not too sure what Steve's told you.

MS GOBBO: Very little.

Peter Smith-O

:

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Peter Smith-O

: This is a fairly difficult sort of meeting,
probably more difficult for you than it is for us.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Peter Smith-O

You may have some information we're interested in

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and only you would know, and you probably don't know whether it's of significant value or no value as far as what we may be able to use and there's a lot of probably hurdles you've got to get over before you get to the point where you probably would want to ask

MS GOBBO: What do you mean by "hurdles"?

Sandy White-O

Well, you know, for a start you don't know yourself - you don't know

Peter Smith-O

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

: You may have seen his face around. You've got to make your own decisions about how much you trust as, as you probably already have made some sort of decisions in relation to Steve and Rowie.

MS GOBBO: The jury's still out.

Sandy White-O

Well, that's a probably sensible thing to do.

Peter Smith-O

: Yeah, that's what we're saying.

Sandy White-O

To be quite honest with you - - -

MS GOBBO: And as it has to be on me too.

Sandy White-O

Yeah. As much as we're a bit of a threat to you, you're also a threat to us, so - - -

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MS GOBBO: Oh, not - not in this situation.

Sandy White-O

: Well - - -

MS GOBBO: Honestly, not in this situation.

Sandy White-O

_____ : Maybe, maybe not, but we've still got to work
our way through that.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

So - - -

MS GOBBO: Before we start, before you say anything else, is
this being recorded?

Sandy White-O

| : It's not, but I'm about to start a recorder.

MS GOBBO: Well, I'm very concerned about that but - - -

Sandy White-O

Yeah. No, you tell me - before I start then,
you tell me what your concerns are and I'll see if I can
allay 'em for you.

MS GOBBO: O.K. Once something's recorded, it's there.

Sandy White-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: It's somewhere.

Sandy White-O

: Yep.

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MS GOBBO: All it takes is for someone to issue some sort of subpoena and it can be obtained.

Sandy White-O

: That's - that's true to a certain extent.

MS GOBBO: Leave aside whether you're gonna play it to other people or other people hear it or that sort of thing - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: - - - but it's there.

Sandy White-O

Yep.

MS GOBBO: And I'm probably how the system works.

Sandy White-O

_____ Yeah. Oh, you are to a certain extent. The first thing is, accepting the fact that it's there, we can't deny that, the first thing you've got to consider is, is it secure? Now, I don't have any intention of telling you how it's secured or where it will be.

MS GOBBO: I don't - yeah, I don't know.

Sandy White-O

All I can say to you is that it would be a hundred per cent secure and it won't be anywhere connected with where Steve and is it subject to subpoena? Yeah, it is subject to subpoena. If people know that it is exists, that's the first thing. You know

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it exists.

MS GOBBO: Well, I'm not gunna tell anyone.

Sandy White-O

Well, that's I'm counting on that.

MS GOBBO:

Sandy White-O

And the second thing is it's a very privileged conversation. Now, I know there can be arguments that can overcome that.

MS GOBBO: But you don't understand. The first thing anyone will claim - I mean, the way it works is I issue a subpoena for something - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm, mm.

MS GOBBO: - - - the police claim public interest immunity - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - that is the answer to the question from a crook's point of view.

Sandy White-O

Yeah. Well, you've got to ask who's gunna subpoena it, I suppose, or we'll actually get to that or we're going to have an argument about it.

MS GOBBO: Oh, well, I'm not

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Sandy White-O

No, I don't mean - I don't mean you.

MS GOBBO: I'm just - I'm honestly - - -

Sandy White-O

: I mean, I'm talking about later down the track,
if we were to have this argument about your tapes. We're
not going to debate the issue with a barrister.

MS GOBBO: I'm not - I'm not trying to be a smart-arse. I
understand that that's the - - -

Peter Smith-O

: No, that's fine. We want to know what your
concerns are.

MS GOBBO: That's the principal concern.

Sandy White-O

O.K.

MS GOBBO: I don't care how many notes you take but I'd rather
notes be notes. If there's no - no tape-recording, at
least no-one can get it somehow.

Sandy White-O

: Well, let me - let me just put this to you: are
you going to be inhibited by what you say if I run a
tape-recorder?

MS GOBBO: Yes.

Sandy White-O

O.K. That kind of defeats the purpose of having
a meeting with you - - -

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MS GOBBO: O.K.

Sandy White-O

: - - - if we can make an assessment of whether
you've got something valuable to offer.

MS GOBBO: O.K.

Sandy White-O

Are you going to be satisfied if I say to you
that firstly the tape is secured in a place where it
can't be got and, secondly, the only people that know it
exists will be yourself and us?

MS GOBBO: Only these people - - -

Sandy White-O

Does that satisfy you?

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

I - like, we're not going to subpoena 'em
because we possess it. I don't imagine you're gonna
subpoena 'em 'cause I can't see the value of that.

MS GOBBO: I'm not - yeah sure.

Peter Smith-O

: No.

MS GOBBO: No, I'm not - - -

Sandy White-O

So - - -

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MS GOBBO: I guess if anyone ever has a - say, for example,
certain people are charged down the track - - -

Sandy White-O

: Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - and - I'm never gunna want the tape. I'd want
it destroyed if I ever had it.

Sandy White-O

Mm, mm.

MS GOBBO: But other people might issue some wide subpoena
somewhere - and I mean somewhere, 'cause I don't even
know where it would be - and you never know.

Sandy White-O

: Mm. Well, what I'll do - is it going to be -
still it's gunna inhibit you talking today?

MS GOBBO: Maybe today. Maybe not in the future.

Sandy White-O

: All right.

MS GOBBO: I suppose it's just a question of I don't know who
you are at all.

Sandy White-O

: No, I understand that.

Peter Smith-O

: Yep.

Sandy White-O

_____ I don't have a problem with that. So what I'll
do - - -

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MS GOBBO: The reality is, if anyone - look, I've said this in the meetings, I'm dealing with someone who scares me enough that no matter what you people do, if anyone found out about it, I'm just - nothing you can do will protect me.

Sandy White-O

Yeah. Well - - -

MS GOBBO: And don't misinterpret that as not having faith in the police, but - - -

Sandy White-O

I'll be - I'll be completely frank with you. If you didn't have that concern and if you had total faith in the police, then I think you're probably fairly foolish because there's a bit of a history of things going wrong.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

: And that's why we've taken steps to do something significantly different with how we're managing you today.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

You know, we didn't send you down to [REDACTED] just to jerk you round. There was specific reasons for that.

MS GOBBO: I get that, yep.

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Sandy White-O

And the same as coming here and the process
we've gone through here, and if we continue meeting,

Peter Smith-O

[REDACTED]
and myself have been given the task of looking after you
if this relationship develops and we'll be [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] So this - there'll be a whole heap of changes
which we'll go into looking after you and we can talk
about that in due course. But, you know, your concerns
are very, very valid. I'm not going to sit here and say
that bad things haven't happened in the past because you
know as well as anybody else that it has. We know that
the person you want to talk about has got the capacity to
hurt people, significantly hurt people, and you are in a
position of concern, I suppose, and we're taking that
seriously.

Just with the - with the tape issue, we'll deal with
that. We will tape-record conversations with you in the
future if we're gunna go down this track.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

: I - I give you an undertaking today while we
just explore each other, but I'm not gunna put that
tape-recorder down and start tape-recording you. But
it's as much for our protection as anyone else's.

MS GOBBO: Yep, I understand that, yep.

Sandy White-O

Now, it may - it may well be that - - -

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MS GOBBO: And you've got to make - you've got to make it - - -

Sandy White-O

: - - - yeah, you'll be satisfied down the track and you might want to make allegations which might be unfounded. I'm not saying you particularly, but this is the nature of the business that we're in and it's as much to protect all of ourselves and our interests. The same, if we make promises to you that we don't keep, well, you will know that tape exists, you could subpoena it and you could say, "Well, there you go, you promised me X, Y, Z, and you haven't done it," and that's happened before too. So it's a bit of a protection thing for us.

At this point, I'm happy just to have a little - a discussion about what it is that you - you might have to offer and whether we can actually progress that in a way that's safe for yourself because to be quite honest - and I've said that three times now, "to be quite honest", and I'm obviously over-exaggerating that - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah, you can say that too much.

Sandy White-O

Yeah. It may well be that the information you've got, if it was acted on, could only end up in - in lighting, like, a bushfire, for want of a better term.

MS GOBBO: Not necessarily

Peter Smith-O

Mm'hm.

Sandy White-O

Yeah. So we need to discuss that sort of issue

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as well. So as I say, we'll work through these sort of things. I can't say to you, "Trust us completely," and I certainly can't trust you completely. So, you know, if you've got concerns, if you've got questions, you ask them. If I can answer them, I'll answer them. If I can't answer them, I'll tell you. I can't lie
so - - -

MS GOBBO:

MR:

Sandy White-O

- - - that's my little introductory spiel.

Peter Smith-O

Perhaps also we could say that we are here to look after your interests which in turn looks after ours.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Peter Smith-O

: If we do the right thing by you, that - that covers us as well. We're not here to - all these things that may be put in place down the track, they're to cover both sides but they're primarily to look after you.

MS GOBBO: O.K.

Sandy White-O

No worries. Is there only one box?

MS GOBBO:

Sandy White-O

So where do we start?

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MS GOBBO: Well, you - I guess you can start.

Sandy White-O

I can say then tell me everything you know about
Tony Mokbel.

MS GOBBO: Where - - -

MR: How - how long you got?

Peter Smith-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: How many - how many weeks - - -

Sandy White-O

Days.

MS GOBBO: - - - have we booked the room for?

Sandy White-O

Well, to be quite honest, if you want to go down
that track, we will - it will take as long as it takes.

MS GOBBO: Can I just - can we go back one - - -

Peter Smith-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: [REDACTED]

Sandy White-O

MS GOBBO: O.K. Maybe down the track?

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Sandy White-O

Maybe.

MS GOBBO: Maybe down the track.

Sandy White-O

Yeah. As I say, you do represent a certain
threat to us - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

- - - which I'm not gunna amplify.

MS GOBBO: I understand that, but you can understand - say, for
example, [REDACTED]

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: - - - I'm gunna sound like a spastic, "I met these
two people," not I mean, "[REDACTED]"
[REDACTED]

Sandy White-O

What we'll do before you leave here today, we'll
set up some contact arrangements - - -

MS GOBBO: O.K.

Sandy White-O

- - - if - if you want to continue on and if we
want to continue on. So at that - there'll be an
occasion where, if you are going to go down that track
and it's worthwhile to everybody, you'll have somebody
you can ring, and it'll be

Peter Smith-O

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MS GOBBO: O.K.

Sandy White-O

And you'll have contact 24/7. But I'll say this now and I'll say it later: you know a lot of these people.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

: In some respects, you're a big threat to yourself. If we start to go down this track - and I know this is stating the bleeding obvious - but we just see people mess up time and time again in this situation. The only person that you can have contact with is ^{Peter Smith-O} As of today, if you're comfortable with where you want to go with this, and it is a value. You won't be talking to Steve or any other person you know 'cause it can only end in tears that way.

MS GOBBO: Yeah, I know, I know.

Sandy White-O

All right. It's just got to be one point of contact and that's it.

MS GOBBO: Speak to

Sandy White-O

Yeah, exactly, yeah.

Peter Smith-O

Not me.

MS GOBBO: Oh, that's very disappointing for me 'cause I was

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just beginning to warm to you, so - - -

Sandy White-O

..... anyway.

MS GOBBO: Well, this all - look, this is all
conversation like that, it's kind of being put in
situations, either directly or indirectly, by Tony or
other people or other members of his family and, you
know, there's a really fine line between being exposed to
something - knowing about something or knowing about
someone's plan to commit some crime - or not "plan", but
ideas or thoughts or desires and - and not acting on them
and what's often in my - in the back of my mind is, you
know, someone down the track has a listening device
conversation of this or a telephone intercept - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - or something, I'm gunna be judged as a lawyer.
I'm not gunna be judged as just someone - - -

Sandy White-O

Yep.

MS GOBBO: And so for quite some time, if I have the ability to
say something hopefully who I do know or have
some rapport with about something, I have in the hope
that someone will do something, but nothing's happened to
date.

Sandy White-O

: Yeah.

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MS GOBBO: The second thing that changed probably in the last few months is that - not last few months - in [REDACTED] even before the stroke or after the stroke's happened, 4, the first half of [REDACTED] there's a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] PII [REDACTED] PII [REDACTED] in the state and I don't know if you know about but as a consequence of - or in the period of [REDACTED] PII [REDACTED] PII [REDACTED] and that brought considerable stress and pressure to me because I didn't want people to find out that I was the one who - through me he'd gone down that path.

I went through the most significant period of paranoia in my life which resulted in the stroke, yeah, or that had a lot to do with the stress that I was under at the time.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: And I still live in fear of that coming out because all it's gunna take is for some Supreme Court judge to release police diary notes where it's me that they're meeting and it's me that they're speaking to, it's me editing, like, the statements before they get sworn and served, that sort of stuff.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: But the pressure that was brought to bear on me then by crooks as in, "Don't let this bloke take that course,

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convince him otherwise - - -"

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - and to date no-one knows that I'm the reason why he's presumably in [REDACTED] - but during that period and as a consequence of that whole thing, I know that I was placed under surveillance, not by police but crooks used to love - they used to say, "It is the police." It's not - you know, they used to throw off and say it was police, but it couldn't have been at the time, or if it was, it would've been a wasted effort from the police point of view.

Sandy White-O

: Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: I'm sure you've come up with surveillance to these people but you're not the target of surveillance or maybe I was from - because of the fact that when I started acting for [REDACTED], the police thought I was a stooge. They thought that I was there for the Williams's and Mokbel.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: As it turned out - and it took a long time for them to see the reality which is that I wasn't there from that point of view and I leave in fear now but that was still to be found out and it's still an ongoing process because I know the police protected me in the Magistrates' Court with the first round of subpoenas, but now we're at

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Supreme Court stage - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - and a judge might rule differently to a
magistrate. If that happens, I'm - I'm - I'm fucked.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: And so I - I saw through that period the great
pressure that these people - namely people like Carl and
Tony - who will bring on everyone around them and the
amazing connections they've got. And I know sometimes
it's their talk to intimidate you or to make you think
that you should be paranoid and sometimes it works,
sometimes it doesn't. I can tell you when I'm exhausted,
I'm more prone to, you know, probably being paranoid.
Well, I shouldn't be paranoid. But things like, you
know, finding out where you live, sending crooks to your
front door to threaten to kill you - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: Recently my letterbox got ripped off the hinges, but
that might have had something to do with the police who
obviously put my home address in a hand-up brief. Now,
that to - I never reported it because I wouldn't do that.
It's not my nature. At the same time, I'll never know
how that happened or - and I'd sound like a raving
lunatic going to a police station and saying - I would -
go to a police station and say, "My letterbox got ripped

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off. Can you help me?" and they'd - no uniform police officer is going to do anything about it.

Sandy White-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: I sound like a lunatic or completely paranoid. You can't investigate it and how is anybody ever gonna link it to the fact that maybe it's this police officer who, we'll say, accidentally on purpose put my home address in a hand-up brief which circulated throughout God knows where. So I live in - I've got levels of paranoia.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: I've got some police officers as my one level of paranoia; some people for me my second level of paranoia; the Drug Squad is a level of paranoia.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: And the crooks - the crooks are a massive level of paranoia and largely the - I don't know what he's saying or what horrific things police officers are listening - to phones or listening devices or whatever and what these - these - for example, these guys think is true or they hear it. I - I do turn myself inside out worrying about what people think but at the end of the day you can't control what people - you really can't control what people think.

Anyway, all of this began because - I dunno if he's told you this story of Darren's arrest - - -

Sandy White-O

Briefly, yeah.

MS GOBBO: They - Paul arrested Darren Bednarski.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: I dunno for whatever reason he - he asked for me. He apparently had my correct mobile number. Paul left a message on a different mobile number and I'm sure I sounded like a spastic the next day when he rang up and said, "We've arrested your client. His name is" - and I said, "Oh, the name sort of sounds familiar but I dunno." I'm like, "Ask him if I acted for him before. How do I" - I said, "I don't know him." Now, presumably there's some doubt in these officers' minds when I say I don't know him. They might go, "What a load of crap, you do really know him," or whatever.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: I don't know him. And I said, "He doesn't have any priors?" and Paul said, "No, he's a cleanskin," and I thought, "O.K." Now, there's two things you could have said; one is that the bloke's just a crook who somehow knows other crooks who would say, "Here's her phone number," or what is probably more appropriate is that he's someone that knows Mokbel and Tony said to him, "If you're ever in trouble," or blah blah blah, "call her. Don't speak to anyone else."

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Now, police of course are entitled to think that's because he - I won't be independent in giving him advice because I'll really be being controlled by someone else - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - which probably went through - was a fair assumption from these guys not - not true, and that's what - that's why I strove to turn this bloke into an informant, to prove a point, which was - because Purana assumed that this guy was a - that I was a stooge when I went to see him - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - and in fact told this bloke - like, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] - that of all the people in the world, he shouldn't [REDACTED], now, I've dug my own grave because what I should have done is - if people knew that [REDACTED], I would have lived every day in fear that it would be found out but I couldn't do that. But at the same time I couldn't - here's a guy who wants me [REDACTED]. I can't afford to look the other way because that would be totally and wrong. I'm not going to say, "Go to gaol," but he - anyway, so Darren - I arranged for Tony Hargreaves, who I think is a very proper solicitor, to go and see this bloke because I couldn't do his filing hearing 'cause I had something else on.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: I agreed to the extension of time with Paul on the phone and then I went to see this bloke after I finished whatever court thing I had on. Tony's office went and did the filing hearing. Meanwhile, so I go to see this bloke I asked him how on earth - like, did I know him, had I met him, where he come from. He said "Tony". Now, I still hadn't made the jump that he had something to do with it, nor would I necessarily because Tony's the sort of person who gives my phone number to people with fencing problems.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: It's just the nature of him. What he does behind my back is he charges these people money and says, "Oh, yeah, I'll pass it on to her," or whatever, and I don't get it, or he does the bargain discount, "I can get her for this much money," and it's all just - it's scams within scams but that's the way he operates.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: Anyway, of course no-one with a brain is going to talk to you properly and because it's all and the crooks believe it is and I do anyway, so I then saw Tony that day - oh, no, what did I see him for? He had - he had a mention in the Supreme Court or somewhere which he hadn't attended and Con Heliotis asked me to speak to him. Spoke to him and -

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and I said, "Oh, thanks for the referral." He said, "Oh, who was it?" and I said - and not often they ring to tell you someone's gonna ring you, but no-one had rung me and I said, "Oh, Darren, some - some bloke, Darren." And he said, "Fuck, what's he in custody for?" I said, "Some drug trafficking." I don't know anything about it at this stage. Like, he hasn't told me anything on the phone. I haven't spoken to Tony Hargreaves or don't know the details of even what the allegations are tell you, he didn't tell me any details during that phone call other than the fact that there were some - there was going to be an extension of time because of the listening device product, but I don't know, or product.

Anyway, Tony panicked, went into quite a state and, you know, I don't know what - I didn't know what the connection was then. Next thing there was a fight and a half between either **Solicitor 2** or Tony Hargreaves who's acting for this bloke.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: She's in there visiting him and visiting his co-accused. She's having meetings with Tony about it. She's asking me about it and I'm saying, "I don't want to know. Leave me right out of it. Can you do a bail application for him?" and I think I went to see him once about - think I saw him once or twice after that first day. Maybe only once in the custody centre and only once at the assessment prison. But anyway, saw him and spoke to him about bail and explained to him that in my view

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he'd have to wait until his co-accused got bail because his co-accused had, from what I knew, arguably better exceptional circumstances. Now, that's a rule of thumb. Get the weakest person out first and then go up, go upwards.

I think Darren told me that - that that PII [REDACTED] or something. He certainly told me that and then again, maybe Solicitor 2 [REDACTED] told me after she spoke to him. I don't know, but in any event it was agreed he had to sit tight and wait, and I may have gone back to tell him that PII [REDACTED] PII [REDACTED] wasn't going ahead on the day it was supposed to go ahead and he - and he would have to wait. And meanwhile behind the scenes there's this huge fight between Hargreaves and Solicitor 2 [REDACTED] and Solicitor 2 [REDACTED] who's running back to Tony every day.

Then she asked me to do a bail application for him and I said, "Well, any instructions?" I don't get any detailed instructions from her at all, although I think she had met the girlfriend and family by then, and ultimately Hargreaves was - I think his position in custody, Darren's position in custody was, "I don't want to offend anybody," and it was perfectly clear to me that Mokbel was paying his fees and that if - that was if he stayed with Solicitor 2 [REDACTED] If he went somewhere else, then his family were going to have problems with paying or something and I - I never even went into hear that detail because I don't deal with families. Usually I don't ask about the family or money or whatever. People that you

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do get bail applications that you successfully apply for bail for always pay the bill at the end of the day. In any event, it's really a solicitor's issue.

Anyway, the date of [PII] application came on, whatever day it was on, and Tony was on my back about going to watch and to monitor him. I said, "I am not going anywhere near that courtroom, not a chance," because every magistrate knows who I am, the police officers know go sit there, even though I could have legitimately because I had an interest, in that I was going to do a bail application for Darren.

In the meantime, the solicitor who acted as - acting for [PII] grilled me. He says, "Can you - can you do a bail application for my client?" and I said, "Well, I can, but I'm not sure whether there'll be a conflict," because I don't have she said to me, "Oh, no, Paul has told me that you're acting for" - so the only reason [PII] sort of knew that I was acting for Darren was because the police told him, not me.

Anyway, [Solicitor 2] went and watched the bail application or she tried to watch it. What I understand happened is that he got bail in the 20 minutes before lunchtime after she - - -

Sandy White-O

Which one, [PII] or - - -

MS GOBBO: [PII] yeah.

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Sandy White-O

PII

MS GOBBO: But he - the bail application was called on at, like, 20 to 1 or something after she left and, you know, the first people - I'm sure Tony rang me that day and said, "How did" - I'm sure he rang and said something stupid like, "How did it go?" or - oh, no, the day I did Darren's bail application he rang me. Anyway, it might be a bit out of order but I didn't go and watch the bail application. He gets bail, then we list Darren's bail application; it was a day that was convenient to me. I get the tape of the record of interview the night before and I listened to it late that night - yeah, early, like, at 6 am, whatever day it was that we went to court.

When you listen to the record of interview, it's patently obvious from my point of view that Mokbel is somehow involved in this or at least there's a suspicion that he is. I rang up Paul, who probably thought that I was trying to fish for information or something, and said, "I can't do this bail application." I felt sick because you can't - you can't go and vigorously cross-examine a police officer in your client's interests if the person that the answers will come out about, which would have been Mokbel, is someone you act for. You just can't do it. In other words, I couldn't go and I couldn't ask Paul questions about an ongoing investigation, "Is it an ongoing investigation? Is it bigger than the people that are in custody?" And you ask those questions for obvious reasons to try and establish

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that there's a delay, that the brief's gonna be later,
blah blah blah.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: But I couldn't ask those questions having listened to the record of interview where it was patently obvious that there was a possible - not possible, obvious conflict, not to mention the fact that Darren had told me in custody that the police had made it crystal clear to him that he shouldn't be ringing me. He shouldn't be speaking to me because I was in a lead role on Tony and a few other bits and pieces that he told me.

When I spoke to Paul, I said, "I can't do this bail application," and I was dearly hoping that something was gonna happen between my office and the court so that I couldn't do it for the obvious reason I didn't want to have to face Tony not doing this bail application because of the screaming and the abuse and everything else that was gonna follow, but equally I couldn't do the bail application because I couldn't stand up in front of a magistrate and cross-examine in a way to reduce Darren's role or put Tony in, bearing in mind that I was acting for him.

As it turns out, **Solicitor 2** had stuffed up and not put a gaol order in, so the guy wasn't brought in from Melbourne Assessment Prison and that solved the problem temporarily and that's - I think when I talked to Paul on the phone, he said, "Oh, he was" and I'm sure

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that in fairness to both of these guys, they thought that it was a whole lot worse than - they thought I was gunna roll - I dunno what you thought, but

MR:

MS GOBBO: I had never met Darren. I don't know anything about him. What I now understand is that he was somehow - and I don't know whether he was for Tony or whether he was - the pills that were being manufactured were going to Tony, I don't know the ins and outs of it, other than Tony is on my back about what's happening and, "You've got to try and control this person," and, "Go and try and act for him," and, "He's gunna get sacked," and on and on.

And in the most recent 24 hours, he's even gone to the extent of, "Do you think that," you know, "those police officers - do you reckon either of them would take any money for this?" because his answer to everything is money, and I'm not - assume what I'm saying - I've got no reason to be saying that unless that is what he has said to me. In other words, I'm not trying to say things about these two - - -

Peter Smith-O

No.

MS GOBBO: - - - to you - - -

Sandy White-O

Yep.

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MS GOBBO: - - - for any other reason.

Sandy White-O

When did he say that?

MS GOBBO: Now I'm just trying to think when I - I saw him -
some day I was at work late in the afternoon and I saw
him and he didn't mention it then. So on this afternoon
at 3 o'clock it might have been - when did I say to you
on the phone - - -

MR: This morning.

MS GOBBO: him yesterday.

MR: 11 o'clock today he said.

MS GOBBO: No, it was yesterday, whatever time I saw him
yesterday, and I can't remember oh, no,
yesterday morning, sorry. He had Supreme Court yesterday
morning. We had a mention in front of Justice Gillard,
so before court. Yeah, no, I remember now. In - in the
foyer of Con Heliotis's chambers and I said, "You're
fucked." You know, "You really need help for saying
these things inside," because Tony's - he - he won't
speak to you unless he takes the battery off the back of
his phone or leaves his phone somewhere. He won't let me
have a bag or keys or a phone and he won't stand still.
He's always got to be walking somewhere or some noise,
because he's trying to be careful he's not being
recorded.

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Sandy White-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: I wouldn't say he's - not necessarily - not - that he doesn't trust me, because he wouldn't think that I was recording him but you wouldn't know in the - where the area that he is - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: - - - that maybe the police have done that.

Sandy White-O

O.K. I'll

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

Just go back a bit, just make sure I understand this. You're not - and I'm not as up to speed in relation to these investigations as I could be. Your concern about representing Darren - - -

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

- - - cross-examining police witnesses in relation to Darren's involvement - - -

MS GOBBO: He had a bail application, yes.

Sandy White-O

Yeah - will be that information may come out about Tony - - -

MS GOBBO: Yes.

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Sandy White-O

- - - and you represent Tony.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

And you see it as a conflict there.

MS GOBBO: It is a big conflict.

Sandy White-O

Yeah. That's your concern, that's what
you - - -

MS GOBBO: About - as a bail application, yes.

Sandy White-O

Yeah, O.K.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Peter Smith-O

There's a concern from a - a legalistic point of
view or - or consequences from Tony?

MS GOBBO: Both.

Peter Smith-O

Both?

MS GOBBO: Both, and that's exactly the point.

Peter Smith-O

Yep.

MS GOBBO: You can't - maybe I wasn't clear.

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Peter Smith-O

No, no, no.

MS GOBBO: You can't - you know, I don't want to be screamed at, let alone God knows what else by Tony, because he hears later on that I've put things to a police officer in a bail application or I've asked stupid questions and certain answers have come out.

Peter Smith-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: But equally I'm not acting in the client's best interests if I don't do that because it will show - - -

Peter Smith-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: - -- he's down there instead of being up the top. He might not - I mean, I still don't know and I'm not asking 'cause it's something that's probably not finished yet or there's no brief.

Sandy White-O

: But surely he's come and asked you what Darren said about his involvement.

MS GOBBO: Yes, he has, he has, no problem. He's met with Darren twice already. He's told me.

Peter Smith-O

He's met with Darren?

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Peter Smith-O

Whereabouts did that happen?

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MS GOBBO: I don't know. He told me on - yesterday morning that he met with - met Darren, because yesterday morning was this - - -

Sandy White-O

Darren got bail.

Peter Smith-O

Oh, did he get bail?

MS GOBBO: Yeah, yeah. Yesterday morning was when he suggested the bribery thing or the, "Do you know anyone who could be - would be able to fix it?" and said - I said - I think I said to him something about Darren and he said, "No, I spent last night with him. He's - he's - he's on top of the world," blah blah blah.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: And then today he said to me, "No, Darren's going to sack Theo and Chris Dane because I've told him that he can't be with them," and blah blah blah. He is desperate for Darren to do some sort of a deal, plead guilty, get it over and done with and absolutely desperate for information about who, what, where. In the limited material that we've been provided with - I say "we" because I've only seen one remand summary for [REDACTED] and I don't there's anything about Tony or anyone else really - and I didn't cross-examine to any great extent. I wasn't present for [REDACTED] bail application and I wasn't present for Darren's, but **Solicitor 2** was, and she has reported back the whole of the bail application to Tony.

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Sandy White-O

| O.K.

MS GOBBO: I think I got off track with the question, sorry.

Sandy White-O

No, you got to my question, yep. All right. So
just - just in relation to this bribery - - -

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

- - - issue, has he provided you with any other
information, other than do you know anybody that - well,
can you tell me exactly how he phrased it?

MS GOBBO: I'm just trying to think, 'cause he talks in his own
- it's a terrible thing to admit but I'm so used to the
way he speaks in half - half-phrases and half - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: It just sounds normal to me now because I've spent
so much time listening to him.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: But to anyone else, it's not even normal
conversation. He can't read properly.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: I wish I had a listening device when I

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"Do you know anyone - do you know anyone that could fix Darren's problem?" and, "Do you know anyone that can tell you about what they know?" because he's worried about and he's asked me about the - in fact there's - just going back one step, there's a telephone bill. If you - I don't know whether he's phone's been intercepted or not. He - he's got about 12 mobile phones but he always uses - he's - he assumes that the phone number that he's using all the time is intercepted.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: So he specifically makes calls from that phone and says certain things, knowing the police are listening or assuming they're listening. He - he rang me. This is how stupid he is. He rang the day of Darren's and then - in the phone call, what he says to me, "How did - how did - how did he go today?" or, "How did that thing go?" or something like that.

Sandy White-O

That was the day that he didn't make it to court?

MS GOBBO: That was the day Darren was not brought into court.

Peter Smith-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: Whichever date that was. He's just lazy. He can't - I mean, you get into the car and drive into the city, do not ask on telephone what he's concerned about now is that - that someone speaks to Darren to know

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what is going on, but he keeps Darren presumably peppered with money or sweet somehow. He wants to know if the police know the - there's some reference to a person who collects bags of drugs or who is the recipient of 20,000 pills. He wants to know if anyone has made a statement. He's gone to see - I know he's gone to see Phil Dunn to put pressure on him or to at least speak to him about - - -

Peter Smith-O

Why?

MS GOBBO: Because [REDACTED] - whatever his name is, I still don't know his surname [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

STEVE: [REDACTED]

MS GOBBO: Yep, that'd be the one, and there was a suggestion
[REDACTED]

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: He wants - desperate to know what's [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I know he saw [REDACTED] yesterday about that but I wasn't there. That must how the topic came up this morning 'cause he said to me, "I saw [REDACTED] and this is what he told me, but I don't trust him, he's just a dog," blah blah blah. Now, that's - this is the mentality. That barrister is a dog, according to him, not 'cause the barrister's done anything wrong but

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because he's - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Now, equally I'll be in the same amount of
difficulty if it becomes apparent that the reason why
[REDACTED] is because it was part of the
advice I gave him.

Sandy White-O

: And was it?

MS GOBBO: What?

Sandy White-O

[REDACTED]

MS GOBBO: It was part of the advice, yeah. Look, at the end
of the day, you only know - this is the problem with
giving proper advice to people in those situations. You
only know as much as the police are prepared to tell you.
So if I'm dealing with a police officer who I know and
have dealt with for years or numerous times who knows
that when I - or I know that when he says something, it's
not a load of crap and it isn't an exaggeration and it's
true, I can give proper advice to whoever the crook is,
but there are so many police who tell you so much garbage
that's so incorrect that I can't - I can't tell a client,
"This is what they have, this is what the issues are,
this is what you're possibly going to be charged with
down the track and this is what you should consider
doing." You can't give them more informed advice. But

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

You know from his record of interview that it's - presumably most of it's recorded on a listening device, they're telephone-intercepted calls. There's obviously surveillance. There's probably an optical device in there. There's probably a tracking device, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: He may as well get the benefit.

Sandy White-O

| And does he know who's he working for?

MS GOBBO: I didn't - I actually didn't specifically ask him but I think when I - when I spoke to him, and I only saw him once which was the morning of the [REDACTED] he had been placed under considerable pressure [REDACTED] [REDACTED] placed under - [REDACTED] had spent a lot of time telling him that, you know, [REDACTED] blah blah blah, because initially everyone seemed to think [REDACTED] [REDACTED] when it becomes apparent that [REDACTED] once again I'll be to blame for that.

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Sandy White-O

All right.

MS GOBBO: But he is - he is - Tony is someone who is desperate to out his role everywhere. He's brought us huge unnecessary amount of attention upon all of us and he - I'm sure there are police out there who think the most ridiculous things, but think that with the press - you know, Tony's spies are everywhere. He's a very, very dangerous person.

Sandy White-O

.....

MS GOBBO: Well, his key interests at the moment are others and what his - what evidence he thinks there on him, but he - if I said to him, "Look, I've got a police officer who," you know, "you can pay him money and he'll tell you" - I don't even know how to phrase it properly.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: You know, "that I trust" or whatever, he'd be in in two seconds, literally. His primary interest at the moment is finding a police officer somewhere, at St Kilda Road or wherever the tapes are that relate to the Drug Squad investigation of him back in 2000-2001 - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm 'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - that relate to his primary interest is finding a police officer to get rid of those tapes.

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Sandy White-O

Mm'hm. And have you had a discussion about -
with him about that?

MS GOBBO: About the - - -

Sandy White-O

You say that he's those tapes.

MS GOBBO: Have I had a discussion with him? Not - not - - -

Sandy White-O

: Yeah. How do you know that?

MS GOBBO: Because he's told me, not - I'm not - well, that's
what I know.

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: He continually - he's got a funny side. He's like a
little - he's like a little kid in some way where he sort
of - every couple of days he'll say, "What are you
thinking? What do you think of that?" or, "What do you
think" drugs "What does that mean?"
and he - he can sit in court and he'll hear or
discussion or whatever in front of a judge and you'll
walk out eth door and he'll say - you know, pretend that
he knows and he understands it all and about four hours
later he will ring me and he'll come and see me and say,
"What did that mean?"

Sandy White-O

Mm.

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MS GOBBO: Or he will say, "No, you're wrong because what the judge says was this," and we'll have a huge argument because I won't back - I often won't back down. Usually it involves me being stupid enough to say, "I'll bet you." I always lose - sorry, always lose a bet but I never actually get paid whatever's been bet. He hasn't paid once. That's - that's - that's he won't but this whole issue of the tapes is amusing because in his Commonwealth trial which is coming up - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - without the tapes, there's not a case - or, sorry, without the tapes, what the police allege the Commonwealth that - they might not - Victoria Police - - -

Peter Smith-O

Is this the with semitrailer with the - - -

MS GOBBO: No, the been and gone.

Peter Smith-O

.....

MS GOBBO: Well, I don't know what happened. I negotiated the settlement but I do not know what happened.

Peter Smith-O

: Right.

MS GOBBO: And I say honestly - and I mean, it happened - why

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the DPP withdrew that is beyond me.

Sandy White-O

: Is that the AFP case or VicPol?

MS GOBBO: No, that is VicPol. I don't get it. You know what
- you want to know what I think happened?

Peter Smith-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: You won't like this, but what I think happened is I
reckon the police allowed him - or knew about it. They -
I reckon the police received money or some police
somewhere received money to allow the removal of the
pseudoephedrine from the container. I don't believe what
- you know, I don't know if you know what the evidence is
or any of - - -

Sandy White-O

Is the semitrailer full in Brunswick?

MS GOBBO: Yes.

Sandy White-O

And wasn't he - isn't he alleged to have been
there when it's unloaded?

MS GOBBO: No, not him but his co-accused.

Sandy White-O

Right. Who's that?

MS GOBBO: Mark Lanteri. I've got - I've got a lot of
information on him. He's currently cooking for 'em but
that's another story.

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Sandy White-O

Lanteri, is it?

MS GOBBO: Mark Lanteri, yeah. Joe Parisi and Rob Karam.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm. They were the ones involved with the
semitrailer?

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: Oh, and Milad. Milad was also charged with that.

Sandy White-O

O.K.

MS GOBBO: And there's - - -

Sandy White-O

 : So that's not the case you're talking about, is
it?

MS GOBBO: No, no, no.

Sandy White-O

That's - - -

MS GOBBO: That was all just with but you asked me
what happened - - -

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: - - - if he beat those charges, and I'm not saying

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that he beat them, they just got withdrawn and I don't know why.

Sandy White-O

Rob Karam, I think he beat them, didn't he? I think he was beating - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah, Karam - but Karam was the same as Tony, they just got withdrawn. He said there was evidence of the container arriving in Brunswick or Coburg, wherever it is, getting unloaded, getting put down, all surveilled. There was no - there was police. There was surveillance statements on the brief. After the - then there was the container - the arrival at the crooks'. The container is opened. There was some surveillance allegedly showing them removing bags. I actually went to the Drug Squad and watched the surveillance footage. It bore no resemblance to what was contained in the - the - the list of - you know, "This tape will show A, B and C."

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: Like, no resemblance to what I watched at the Drug Squad, because - I don't know why they wouldn't release the videos as part of the brief. I did go there to watch it.

Sandy White-O

: Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: And this is going back to, God, 2002 that I went and watched it or maybe - yeah, 2002, while he was in gaol. Anyway, it shows the unloading, or there was surveillance

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officers watching this container. All of a sudden, the crooks get followed to wherever they go. Nobody's watching the container and nobody's minding it. The police enter the - some police officers enter the container - no, they don't enter it, they watch the container, but it's not kept under guard, nothing, just left open. The crooks come back and they get - like, two hours later or something. They're seen to allegedly take a few more bags but bearing in mind there's supposed to be \$2 billion worth of - I don't know how many litres that is or how many containers it is but it's a lot.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: Then nothing happens, just amazing. Like, the police are aware that this container is alleged to contain all this stuff because it's been all over the TI products leading up to this. Nothing happens. No police watch it, no surveillance. Empty. 9 o'clock the next - no, 10 o'clock the next morning, two police officers from the Drug Squad go through and they find 0.05 of a gram of pseudoephedrine inside one of the bowls. Now, how can it be that overnight nobody watches it? How can it be you don't arrest people when they're unloading? I just don't - I just don't get it.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: But what my theory is - 'cause Tony laughs about it, he just laughs - my theory is, and it may be a wrong conclusion, is that the police must have been paid or

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someone must have been paid. Something must have happened.

Sandy White-O

O.K. Well, that's something we can come back to in due course.

MS GOBBO: But I can't answer your question. Why - why you turned up for a state committal earlier this year and the brief had been an overwhelming - I mean, the conversations with the registered informer - doesn't matter if the informer is nowhere to be found and won't come back, doesn't really matter if he's dead really, because he's still got the tapes. But conversations in terms of, you know, the definition of trafficking, being an agreement to sell or supply, whatever - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: - - - are horrific. They are some of the worst conversations I've ever read. Why the DPP just agreed to, "Don't worry about that one, don't worry about that charge," for the pseudo, "Don't worry about that," I still don't know. I was just saying even to Tony at the time, "There's something very wrong here. Why on earth are these people just accepting this?" He kind of laughs and thinks, you know, he would say, you know, he'd paid someone or he's done something, but I still don't know what happened there.

Sandy White-O

All right.

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MS GOBBO: His Commonwealth trial though relies upon the same tapes that the Drug Squad - they're the tape - the tapes the Drug Squad obtained and they may even to target them.

Sandy White-O

: Right.

MS GOBBO: And so if you take the tapes away - - -

Sandy White-O

Is that hashish?

MS GOBBO: No, no, it's two kilos of coke.

Sandy White-O

Right.

MS GOBBO: It was originally five but no-one knows whether the - his co-accused [REDACTED] stole three kilos or didn't pay for it or fucked it up and next minute stole it, or the D stole it in nobody knows what happened to - 'cause the order was for five but only two came.

But that whole case, what I understand happened, is the Drug Squad gave the Federal Police, who had a separate investigation going and they arrest - they arrested the freight-forwarding - the guy at the UPS warehouse - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - when the cocaine came in. They arrested

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everyone - Tony's name went on the search warrants and his details were in the brief but he was never - and he was the subject of a search warrant by the Federal Police but not charged till a year later when he gets arrested by the Drug Squad. By then, the Drug Squad have given the Federal Police there listening device conversations that they recorded and those are sufficient to - for the AFP to have enough to prosecute.

Sandy White-O

Are they - are they tapes or are they - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

O.K.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

So these are the tapes that he's talked about wanting to get hold of?

MS GOBBO: Yes.

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: Desperately.

Sandy White-O

What, if those tapes go missing, that's the end of the case?

MS GOBBO: Well, it is. If you take the tapes away - let's say

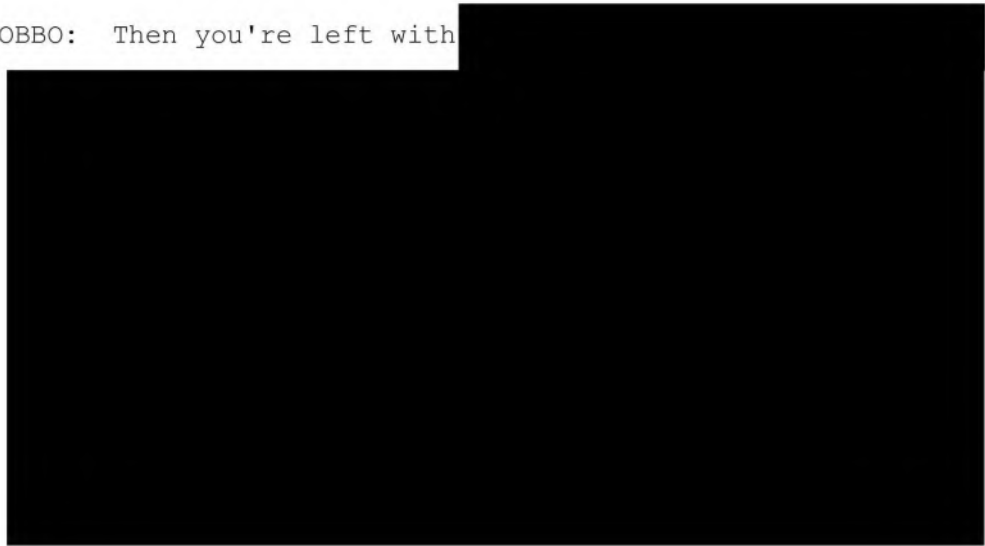
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there's no tapes no-one can prove
because to try and rely on - this is a cop
let's say you don't have them or let's say the judge
won't allow you to use that evidence.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

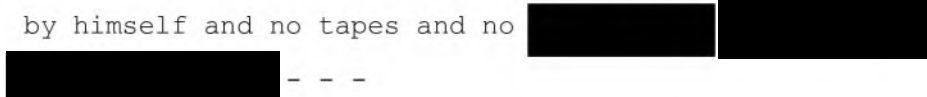
MS GOBBO: Then you're left with



Peter Smith-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: No jury will ever believe him, and if it's just him
by himself and no tapes and no



Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: He will walk.

Sandy White-O

: O.K.

MS GOBBO: The combination of and the tapes

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being played, even in the absence of [REDACTED] is
devastating.

Sandy White-O

: When was - - -

MS GOBBO: So, hang on, the latest angle is, "We'll attack
police officers who put the - turned the tapes on, turned
the tapes off," so talking about and Miechel,
and Miechel will be his current target 'cause he thinks
he can get to Miechel. He'll somehow, somehow - got to
find some way of getting to those tapes, and I wouldn't
have thought that that is a good for you guys
to - there's some police somewhere that - it's not that
difficult to investigate him and watch him and introduce
him to someone and him, or maybe it is. I
don't - - -

Sandy White-O

Just let me go back a step. The first thing you
said, that he was considering offering a bribe to a
policeman - - -

MS GOBBO: I can't work out though whether that's - I didn't
really - I don't want to have a conversation with him
about those things ordinarily.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: And I don't know whether what he meant was the
difficulty in relation to finding out that himself or to
fixing up the police so that Darren - they proceed
against Darren or they against Darren or

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something. Might have been either, but the view obviously is he's worried about something the police have got - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: - - - or what he thinks he might have.

Sandy White-O

I'm not suggesting this at this point in time, but if you were to say that there was somebody - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

- - - how would he go about actually progressing that?

MS GOBBO: Say, "Do you want - can you introduce him to me?"

Sandy White-O

_____ Would he?

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

He wouldn't say, "I'm at arm's length. Nicola, you - you do all that"?

MS GOBBO: Oh, he might say, "Go and talk to the person first and see what he wants," but then he trusts me and that's the alarming aspect of all of this.

Sandy White-O

Tell me this then: how long have you actually known him?

MS GOBBO: Since I was a Crown witness against him in
nineteen-ninety - I don't know spoken
..... I was a witness in 98.

Sandy White-O

You made a statement against him?

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

What was that for?

MS GOBBO: That's how I met him. Long story, but when I was a
solicitor, first-year solicitor, second-year solicitor,
in 97, I was working for Alex Lewenberg. Horthy Mokbel
was charged with some multimillion-dollar tax fraud.
Tony was one of the people that put the bail up. I can't
remember how much the surety was, but Horthy got bail.
Alex rang me up and said - Alex Lewenberg for whom I
worked rang me up and said, as is often the case - as was
often the case, "Can you go into the Magistrates' Court,
meet this bloke. You've just got to take them up to the
second floor of the registry so they can sign
surety."

So I - I met - I didn't know Tony from a bar of soap
and Alex has said to me, "Oh, the client's brother will
meet you." I'd never heard of - he comes up to me and
says, "I'm Tony." We went to the second floor. I made
suer that they had - I can't - I mean, I can't remember
now what I said in my statement but it'll be somewhere
anyway. Whatever the surety was, the rates notice and

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the title - as it later turned out, they both - Tony and his - I think it was his sister or sister-in-law, some chick, Carly someone, were charged with perjury on the basis of I think he swore that he was a whole owner of a whole of property and he only owned half or something and she swore - I can't remember the details. But - so the next thing, the Federal Police rang me "Were you at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court," on whatever date. "Yes." "Well, you're not a suspect at this stage but we want to speak to you." It was the Federal Police.

So that meant that - like, they then asked me to make a statement and - about what had happened at the registry and what documents I'd seen and I dunno what they thought that I could so because the reality is, I couldn't remember her name. I could remember that he was on the phone the whole time we were there, that is Tony; mobile phone ringing nonstop. I can remember him saying that he had 18 titles and he wasn't sure which one to use. Anyway, it will all be in whatever statement I made.

Because the statement - no, I can't remember why - Alex Lewenberg who was my employer said that for some reason, he had to get the permission of Tony's brother Horty who was the client, or his client back then, some third party privilege. I can't even remember what the reason was, but in the end, I made the statement.

Con Heliotis cross-examined me at the committal and the trial in front of the jury, so I do know what it's like to be cross-examined by him, and the judge directed

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an acquittal. They were committed, both he and his sister-in-law cum whatever she is, but the judge directed an acquittal and that's how I met him. I was down there. The committal was - I'm sure the trial was it was nineteen - eight, 98, I think, or early 99, something like that. That's how - so that's how I met him.

I've - I had acted for Horty for quite some time and he had some he's got some - there's a police officer from Northcote or Flemington who is quite obsessed by him or was quite obsessed by him for a period of time and he didn't have a licence, so every time it seemed that he drove a car down the road, there was this police officer next to him, at a set of lights, behind him, just kept charging him. So I think he had eight driving disqualified, something like that. I keep hoping that something will happen 'cause if he gets charged again, I'll get paid. I've never been paid for that. I don't know the solicitor or they did, but they say it's the solicitor, so who knows.

And then Horty pleaded guilty to some fraud or deception on the books and I can't remember what year, maybe 2000 - no, no, no, it was when Tony's phone was off 'cause the police told me that I was on a telephone intercept. Must have been 2000 or 2001, late 2000 maybe. I did this plea for Horty and it turned into a plea on the day of the trial and I remember Tony - speaking to Tony on the phone and he was saying "Suck it up," you know, 'cause Tony's view is, you know, "(1), you're a chick," so how competent could I have

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been. This is before he knew me back then, not a QC, haven't been round long enough, so, "Really, what are you doing there?" this call at the time and then his brother got a suspended sentence, so then he did ring me to say - I reckon he rang me and he said, you know, "Well done," or blah blah blah, and he said something about horsey, horses, buying a horse, horseracing, I can't remember, and at the time his phone was off because the Federal Police had a laugh. One day they said to me, "Oh, you're buying a racehorse with Mokbel." And it was probably only maybe six months after that that Tony got arrested. I didn't act for him at the beginning.

After Justice Cummins revoked his bail which was October 2001, it was back in - he got bailed in September, back in custody October, his brother kept going to see him at whatever - at Port Phillip Prison. He used - this is his brother Horty.

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: He used to ring me and say, "Look, my brother said to ask you this, my brother said to ask you that. He wants to know this. This is what's happened. What do you think of this?" and I said, "For" - I said, "For God's sake, tell him to ring me directly." This is - I regret that day now, but I said, "Tell him to ring me directly," because everything's getting filtered second or third-hand and it's not accurate, and what I was saying back, God knows how accurate or inaccurate that was, and that's how I became involved in acting for him,

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Valentine's Day 2002.

Sandy White-O

: Just let me ask you this: would the Federal Police say that you gave the evidence they expected you to give at that first hearing in relation to perjury or would they say - - -

MS GOBBO: Um - - -

Sandy White-O

- - - "No, Nicola let us down. She didn't stick to her statement"?

MS GOBBO: No, no, no, I - no, I gave what was in my statement.

Sandy White-O

Yep.

MS GOBBO: The only thing I never - never knew was the woman's name and I - when I made my statement I couldn't remember her name. I'm sure - I can't remember what I said in the statement, whether I guessed her name or not. At the committal I was asked about it and I still couldn't remember, and these people played me for a fool. Heliotis, in front of a jury, I can remember it very clearly that bombshell - you know, barristers do that, they save up the good point and he did it and did it beautifully. He said, you know - I think it was along the lines of proving how much - trying to say I had - wasn't paying any attention or that I was so far back or I couldn't remember, and I remember 'em saying, "Does the name Gloria ring a bell?" and it was - Gloria was her name. That's how I know the name now because - but, no,

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I stuck to my statement.

I said to the informant when I came out of court, having given evidence in front of the County Court jury, I remember the informant saying to me, "So what do you reckon?" You know, "How's it going?" I said, "Your case is fucked. The judge is going to direct an acquittal." He said, "What do you mean?" and it was a police officer who was doing a law degree, so he should have understood. I remember saying to him, "You're missing" - like, "You're missing the element of intentional dishonesty," or whatever it was, I can't even remember, and I said, "It's the end, it's over, it's finished," and about an hour later, they did get a direction - - -

Sandy White-O

Oh, so it wasn't an issue of identity that revolved around you

MS GOBBO: No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

Sandy White-O

Right.

MS GOBBO: I don't - like, there was no issue about me in my statement.

Sandy White-O

_____ O.K.

MS GOBBO: It was a - and when I tell people now I was a Crown witness, they say, "You're lucky you weren't killed at the time."

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Peter Smith-O

It is surprising considering your relationship with him now though, looking back. It's - - -

MS GOBBO: It's the - it'll make the greatest story one day if anyone ever writes a - - -

Peter Smith-O

That's - well, that's the book we're never gonna write.

MS GOBBO: I'm not gonna write a book. You see, I can't in my own mind work out sometimes what I know from reading a brief or what I know from the court case, what I know from conversations with people, what I know second-hand from police officers or whoever.

Peter Smith-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: You know, looking back in time, I can't - sometimes I can't remember how I found out certain things. You could never write a book about anything if you didn't know where you came - if you're going to be factual, nor could I write a book because some of the things I could talk about would get me killed.

Sandy White-O

So do you think the evidence that you gave in that trial helped him? Is that - - -

MS GOBBO: I don't - I don't know. I never really - never really spoken to him. I never did at the time. I didn't know him from a bar of soap. Call me the most naive person on the face of the earth, I didn't know who he

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was, not back then. And I worked for someone, so the person I was working for dealt with them, not me.

Sandy White-O

: So tell me this: what's the best-case scenario for you at the moment?

MS GOBBO: Best-case scenario? Find a sugar daddy and get out of the law.

Peter Smith-O

: You're in the wrong room.

MS GOBBO: No look, when I started practising, it was really - it was exciting. I had a lot of passion and a lot of drive. I had a lot of enthusiasm. There was a lot of variety. There was the excitement of, "Where am I going today? Who am I going to meet?" I can't believe it was - I was - I'm burnt out, I'm cynical. I can't deal with the stress any more. I can't deal with the stress of the worry any more and now, like, with people like Mokbel, we've got that added stress of not to - not just his dishonesty towards us but [REDACTED] are watching, Purana's watching, probably the Drug Squad is watching, who - whoever else. But I'm not - I'm not worried about those organisations from the point of view of not involved in drug trafficking or anything like that but from the point of view of money, you know, the Proceeds of Crime legislation, that's what this afternoon's conference was about, this whole restraining order fiasco.

And I must say - I think I said this before - I think

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Purana has had an amazing effect because the - the more you limit the ability of crooks to move financially and, you know, he can't go to the casino and can't go to racetracks, he's got a - somehow after 40 years somebody's had enough brains to actually enforce the Australian namely he can't be in possession of any property or it can be taken from him. So the pressure's really on.

We've got another problem now with **Solicitor 2** because, you know, you used to have the protection of, "There's the solicitor, there's the insulation," in the sense of financially there's the insulation, as in sort of or you can - the solicitor will with the client. That's not out there any more. That's - it's right out the window and I can't - - -

Sandy White-O

Insofar as he - he contacts you directly and those sort of things?

MS GOBBO: That - that sort of - that sort of thing, but the other side is I can - I can't - imagine if I was charged with something and my defence was, "Hang on got a reasonable inquiry of" - if you charged me with proceeds of crime, for example. I could say - I should be able to say, "My solicitor has made reasonable inquiries." I'm insulated by the fact that someone has, within the meaning of the legislation, done something inquiries. How could you ever expect that defence to work if the solicitor is someone charged herself and doing all sorts of other things?

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Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: Which I've got to say I probably can't 'cause you
can't reveal [REDACTED] evidence.

Sandy White-O

: You can't?

MS GOBBO: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I don't think you can give me dispensation
for that.

Sandy White-O

: No.

MS GOBBO: But - but I'm saying that as an example. It - it -
it means that - you know, she's someone I don't trust. I
think she's a very dangerous - very, very dangerous
person, and I'm trying to keep some contact with her
because I think she's potentially a very dangerous
person. Now, she's the one that's trying to get all the
affidavits and the subpoenaed material that would bury me
straightaway.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: So I'm probably driving myself more insane by trying
to keep track of what she's doing.

Sandy White-O

[REDACTED] Who have you been dealing in relation
to that?

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MS GOBBO: Stuart Bateson

Sandy White-O

Is in relation hopefully
you've

MS GOBBO:

Sandy White-O

Well - and now

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

To try and but I know what your
concerns are and you've got some very valid concerns, no
issue with that, both from I think from the point of view
of getting involved in investigations maybe you don't
want to because involved in and also - - -

MS GOBBO: I don't mind getting involved. I don't - like,
look, I'm not here because I've got - you know, I've
committed some drug crime or I think that I've got - I
have to - I said this to Steve and I don't know whether
he actually believed me or not but if I was - was charged
with something, I'd because in a different position. I'm
here because I've had enough.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: Really, I've had enough. It's not about me saying I
need help because of whatever, I just want - I've had it.

Sandy White-O

Well, I - - -

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MS GOBBO: And I don't know the way out. I can't - - -

Sandy White-O

Well, that's what I want to get to now. All
right? Tony and - and - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

: - - - others - - -

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

- - - they're - they're significant players,
significant

MS GOBBO: Well, that's why nothing will ever happen to Tony
because no-one will ever knock him off his perch, even
though he owes stacks of money everywhere - - -

Sandy White-O

: Yeah.

MS GOBBO: - - - because everyone knows, you kill him, the
brothers will kill you.

Sandy White-O

_____ : Have you had much contact with the brothers?

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

: Other than that, you mentioned with - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

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Sandy White-O

: - - - Horthy?

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

: Yeah. Recent contact or historical?

MS GOBBO: No dropped off charges dropped
and his money back. He had to pay a bill at the end and
he's a tight-arse

Sandy White-O

: Do you represent Kabalan?

MS GOBBO: I will be, I probably will be, depending on whether
Tony's trials are on. See, that's the real problem,
they're listed at the same time.

Sandy White-O

Are they?

MS GOBBO: Yep, and at the same - actually, from the same point
of view, Tony's got no money at the moment because
everything's restrained, so maybe Kabalan hasn't got none
either. I thought - I don't think I can really appear
for Kabalan [REDACTED]

Sandy White-O

_____ | : You do?

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

: Oh, O.K.

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MS GOBBO: [REDACTED] is a man who is - God, he - he and I have some similarities.

Sandy White-O

He's a bit worried, is he?

MS GOBBO: Worried? He's a man who could have sold all of 'em out. He could have - you know, he - he really could have put everyone in gaol for a long, long time but he wouldn't do it.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: Wouldn't do it. And you guys probably had a brief.

Sandy White-O

: Does he still think about it or has he made up his mind?

MS GOBBO: We talk about it. I talk to him about it from time to time. There was a moment when I did speak [REDACTED] for him because I thought he was really - - -

Sandy White-O

_____ : Yep.

MS GOBBO: That, you know, they would know that I wasn't just testing him out at the time and really I had spent enough time with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Sandy White-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sandy White-O

Yeah. Tell me this: as far as - I asked you before what your best-case scenario was and it was getting out.

MS GOBBO: Yeah. I think I got off track then. I would like to go back to the way it was, which was no pressure, no paranoia, not worried about what he thinks of me when I get to court or - there are too many drug briefs. I can tell you who most drug traffickers are. I've listened to telephone intercepts that in the brief are "unidentified male" and - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: - - - whether they're unidentified male because you guys do it on purpose - I suppose sometimes you do - or because they really are an unidentified male, it alarms me that I can work out who they are.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: Yeah, there's things in my mind where I think, you know, there's that bloke who's been in three separate Drug Squad operations. He's not charged. There's people - you know, I know car - people's car regos. I've read

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too many of these briefs and I've had it. But have I had it with the law or have I had it with the people that I'm acting for? I don't think it's the law, I think it's the people.

Sandy White-O

So how do you see doing something about that in - in your world? You've had plenty of time to think about this.

MS GOBBO: Oh yeah. Ideal situation would be to be appointed. That would be a - not as a judge but as a magistrate. That would be ideal, but it'll never happen because of my

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: Politics are politics.

Sandy White-O

: Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: I'd like to - I would like to get to the stage where I have a business completely separate from the law stress-free that I derive an income from and do - scale right back as a barrister. So, you know, put your fees up and just do one or two days a week. So that's pithy bail applications, not - not every single time there's some new Drug Squad operation, I end up with it in my office and I end up they're sick of me and I'm sick of that work but

Sandy White-O

But while Tony, he's still at large

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and now there's - - -

MS GOBBO: But we're heading towards an adjournment for him or some sort of stay application or something. We are headed in that direction. I keep saying - my poor mother has been listening to it since I was I keep saying, "It's all right, it's only gunna be - I'm only gunna have to work like this for," you know, "three more months," it's four months, five more months. But it never ends. It's never gunna end because even if he gets convicted, there'll be appeals and Proceeds of Crime stuff, [REDACTED] stuff that'll go on for God knows how long.

You know, there's another example. I'm - presumably got summonsed to the subpoena stage rings me up, "Can you appear for me?" I said, "Well, I'll have to check," 'cause you've got to get permission from them. Then, "Who else got subpoenaed? See if you can find out who else went there. See if you can find out who went to those things. You can you find out who's in tomorrow." He's not discreet about asking. He says stupid things on the phone and my blood pressure - I reckon if I had a blood pressure monitor on me, it would go up every time I look at the phone and it's him ringing. Anyway, I could go on with lots of examples of things he's done. I don't know the - I don't know the answer to - the real answer to how it's gunna happen to get out.

Sandy White-O

Yep.

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MS GOBBO: But I'm increasingly alarmed about my own exposure and assumptions making that 'cause I do care at the end of the day what people think.

Sandy White-O

Well, I can tell you this with a great deal of certainty, and there's very little I wouldn't tell you, I suppose, during the course of our relationship - - -

MS GOBBO: I

Sandy White-O

- - - depending on how long it goes - - -

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

: - - - but I can tell you that your relationship with Tony and the others only can have one ending - well, it can actually have two, but both of them

MS GOBBO: Couldn't agree more, because look at anyone - look at anyone who's had any sort of relationship with them.

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: It only ends one of two ways.

Sandy White-O

Yeah, yeah. There's a pretty solid past history of outcomes for people. But - - -

MS GOBBO: But I think it can be - - -

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Sandy White-O

But the thing I've got - - -

MS GOBBO: I think it can be - I hope that it won't be one of those two endings, the same two you're thinking of - (1) is gaol or (2) is death

Sandy White-O

Probably not in that order, I

MS GOBBO: could be - look, ideally, what would be fantastic would be you arrest him, ideally that would be - I know it's a terrible, terrible thing to say to anyone.

Sandy White-O

_____ Mm.

MS GOBBO: But - and that's what - I mean, I thought that that was gunna happen, probably not now but back - - -

Sandy White-O

Yep.

MS GOBBO: that his case ends up finishing or he gets charged with something else and he's then put in a position where he is never going to get bail 'cause it's strong enough and big enough and serious enough that he'll never get bail and then he'll plead.

Peter Smith-O

| Do you reckon?

Sandy White-O

But that doesn't - - -

Peter Smith-O

Has he ever discussed - - -

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MS GOBBO: Pardon?

Peter Smith-O : Has he ever discussed pleading or this is a belief
you have?

MS GOBBO: No, he won't plead to - he'll never plead. It's ego
for him.

Peter Smith-O Oh - - -

MS GOBBO: It's a - for what he's currently charged with?

Peter Smith-O Yeah.

MS GOBBO: No.

Peter Smith-O | : No.

MS GOBBO: But I'm saying if he - - -

Peter Smith-O | : Something else.

MS GOBBO: - - - if he was charged tomorrow with trafficking
..... pills and it was a very strong case - - -

Peter Smith-O | : Yeah, O.K.

MS GOBBO: - - - he's not gunna fight a trial from within
custody 'cause his access to be able to speak to people
is massively cut off. I mean, you - you will monitor

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every call, every visit. He'll be in Acacia presumably with everyone else and think - no - he would - that's what he would do. He would plead. Things would change. God, it would relieve so much pressure off me 'cause you're only allowed to ring between 9.00 and 3.15.

Peter Smith-O

_____ Mm.

Sandy White-O

But you look seriously stressed about the bail application.

MS GOBBO: 'Cause I'm being honest with you.

Sandy White-O

| : Knocking - knocking your health around.

MS GOBBO: It is. This is all knocking my health around. You see, the problem with - and, look, I'm - I've created this mess for myself. I think because I need to know - I think I need to know what's going on about Carl.

Sandy White-O

: Yep.

MS GOBBO: She seems to have adopted me as kind of some special friend and, I mean - - -

(TELEPHONE RINGS)

MR: Sorry.

MS GOBBO: That wasted a lot of my time. I spend - I reckon

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there wouldn't be a day where I don't speak to Tony.

Sandy White-O

: Yeah.

MS GOBBO: If you look at his phone records here, the phone - listen to the phone calls. Every day it's something and now it's become very intense because he's got one restraining order in the County Court, one in the Supreme Court, actions in both places, plus a Supreme Court judge breathing down his neck about his trial coming up, plus he's got Kabalan's stuff that he looks after. He's got all sorts of other kind of peripheral people that he rings up every day about. Like, you know, Darren's one example, one example but there's someone - he rings up today, someone, some bloke who's charged with drive with disqualified, like, you know, or he'll ring up and say, "Can I just run this scenario past you?"

Sandy White-O

Yep.

MS GOBBO: I won't know what he's talking about when he rings up or what the specifics are or how it relates to either himself or another person saying is accurate. I don't know how to brush that off. I can't suddenly - I don't know how to suddenly just say, "I'm not talking to you any more," and what the response to that would be or what the assumption would be, more to the point.

Sandy White-O

: Yeah, that's a reasonable - reasonable statement.

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MS GOBBO: Yeah. Now - but, you know, the assumption I'm sure the police make is, oh, he must just be chucking money at me. I'm too scared to give him a bill now for the last six appearances in the Supreme Court and everywhere else because he's got no funds. His source of funds has just been restrained a few weeks ago. I can't - if he had cash, I can't take it because I can't - I can't make the inquiry. I can't - he's not - he's in breach of the law if he has possession of cash. That's as far as my reading of his restraining order is, as was told to me by a Supreme Court judge yesterday.

So even if he even got a form of payment from a cheque any more, he'll produce cash, I can't take it. We're just - we're at a - we're fast reaching the end of the line with him but I'm just not sure it's gonna happen, because of the way things have been set up, it seems that the Supreme Court might end up adjourning his trial.

Sandy White-O

If we take what you say as correct - - -

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

- - - and that is that the best way to deal with him for you is that he gets locked up - - -

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

- - - what's - what is the easiest or the best way to have him locked up?

MS GOBBO: I dunno.

Sandy White-O

We - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah - - -

Sandy White-O

We can investigate - - -

MS GOBBO: I don't understand - - -

Sandy White-O

- - - until the cows come up. You - you know
certain things about him that we don't know.

MS GOBBO: Yeah. Do you really think that?

Sandy White-O

I do, yeah, and maybe you don't know how useful
they can be, but that's another - - -

MS GOBBO: I probably don't.

Sandy White-O

: - - - another conversation at another time. But
you have had a lot of time to think about this, so if you
were in a position to say, "O.K., boys, this is all you
have to do to lock him up," what would you say?

MS GOBBO: Send in an undercover.

Sandy White-O

Yeah, to do what?

MS GOBBO: Bribe, bribe, money, tapes, information. He thinks

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all police officers are a joke or - or enough money and he continually tries to make you think that he's got police in his back pocket, continuously. There was one occasion where he blackmailed me over - it doesn't matter what it was over, but he claimed that he had videotapes or audiotapes about me that he got from a police officer. I knew what he was saying was false and I said, "Good luck." I wouldn't pay the 50 grand that - what he wanted to do was he wanted to - he wanted me to owe him \$50,000 or to have - you know, basically for him to be in credit 50,000, like, 'cause he was gunna go out and pay some police officer \$50,000 to hand over these tapes 'cause - and it was all along the lines of, "I love you, my special, special barrister friend," whatever, and, "I can't imagine this police officer is going to make them public," and they're going to report them to the Bar and all this crap. And I said, "Good luck. I'm not paying 50 grand 'cause there's nothing there." I said, "Well, Tony, why don't you get the tapes? I'd love to see them," 'cause I knew what he was saying.

What he was doing of course was fishing because he wanted me to let him know whether something else had happened or not happened. That's what it was all about and it's a game of bluff. Everything's a bluff with him. He has - actually a client of mine who unfortunately paid him \$80,000. The reason he paid \$80,000 was so that the DPP and the Drug Squad didn't - didn't appeal the fact that this fellow - this fellow gets bail in the Magistrates' Court paid \$80,000 the police officer or the magistrate or somebody so that the

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DPP and the Drug Squad didn't appeal the fact that this guy got bail and it took this poor spastic two months to know me well enough to say, "Listen, is it true that they were gunna appeal the fact that I got bail to the Supreme Court but they didn't because," you know, "Tony did this, this and this?" I said, "Don't tell me you've actually paid him money?" I don't know whether he paid or it got taken off some bill, but - but that's - if you work on the assumption I do which is 90 per cent of the people at court are either - they're stupid, lazy or greedy because if they weren't stupid, they wouldn't be caught; if they weren't lazy, they wouldn't be caught; if they weren't greedy and actually had a job, they wouldn't be doing what they're doing. Very few of them are very clever, and I think the really clever ones I don't ever see because they don't ever get caught or they - you know what they're doing but you don't have enough to charge them. If you assume - like, I reckon probably 60 per cent of the people all involved in drugs, had, like, used in the 70s, they're brain dead, they're vulnerable, they're naive, they're half-wits, they're losers.

Sandy White-O

Are these all the ones

Peter Smith-O

Ha - - -

MS GOBBO: Most of them.

Sandy White-O

What about Bednarski, he's

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MS GOBBO: Well, I'm not saying him. I'm saying - - -

Sandy White-O

I'm just saying. That was my reply.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

We

MS GOBBO: Yeah, I'm not saying they're

Peter Smith-O

| Ha ha, very funny.

MS GOBBO: got no assets told me, "It's all in my wife's name", blah blah blah, but not - but lots of them are just spastics. They really are. Take, for example, that idiot, Emre Basturk. He's that yellow Lotus man. I dunno who's the informant for him. But that idiot, he gets arrested for some big ecstasy operation, whatever. I get asked to do his bail application. I've got his Turkish/Muslim rude, offensive brother on the phone driving me insane. You know, anyone that's got some information about how to do anything, they'd go to that stupid coffee shop in Coburg or Brunswick and they talk to the Mokbels. They all - people ring me up and they go, "We've spoken to Tony, we've spoken to Milad, we've spoken to Horthy," somebody, so it's just the never-ending influx of work and if they're paying people, that's fine, but if it's kind of on a report-back basis - - -

Sandy White-O

: Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - then it's not good, and I never know. Some -
sometimes I know, sometimes I don't know. But look at
Emre Basturk, what a spastic. He's dealing drugs.
Seriously, he's dealing ecstasy from A to B. I can't
remember the circumstances but I do remember - no, the
guy he's giving it to is selling straight to an
undercover. It's very clear on the - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: the chain will be. I say to him when I
go to meet him in custody that, "Well, you're gunna lose
the car. The nice little yellow Lotus is gone." "What
do you mean it's gone?" I said, "Well, you're never
gunna get it back." "What do you mean? They can't prove
I traffic or I had ecstasy in the car." I
said, "O.K. Well, I tell you what, when you get out, ask
the Drug Squad to give it a wax and a polish 'cause they
probably got it a bit dirty when they took it away." He
said, "Yeah, I'll do that." He did. He rang up Tony
Hargreaves when he got out on bail the next day and said,
"Could" - you know, "Nicola said could you ask the Drug
Squad to give it a wax and polish." Now, if he ever had
..... laughed at least.

He's a spastic. He did not believe when I said to
him, "Leave - get the - let the finance company take the
car back. You're never gunna get it back. You're never
gunna be able to demonstrate you didn't sell or didn't

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drive because you" and his answer of course was, 'cause he's a very clever bloke, he is, he said, "The car's not in my name." I said, "Oh, whose name's it in?" "A company name." I said, "Oh, yeah, that's good. Who's the - who's the director of the company?" "I am." I said, "Well, that's good." I tell him - - -

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: - - - "You're not gonna get the car back," and, "Leave it, give us time" 'cause I didn't - I did get him bail but, you know, I didn't want to - I didn't - could have talked the talk.

Peter Smith-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: Such is life. But I can list so many idiots. They're just - the paying of 80,000 to Mokbel, I mean, it's hilarious, but there's probably - there's probably lots and lots of people.

Peter Smith-O

Mm, that's one you know about.

MS GOBBO: Well, you know, a lot of people wouldn't be - wouldn't be, you know, comfortable enough to say - - -

Peter Smith-O

Talk about, yeah.

MS GOBBO: Yep. He owes a lot of money, a lot of - he owes a lot of money to a lot of people.

Peter Smith-O

How much do you reckon?

MS GOBBO: Millions. He's apparently buying up nightclubs left, right and centre not in his name. I don't know what these Liquor Licensing people are doing at the City of Stonnington or wherever he's banned from. Look, I speak to a lot - actually a lot of people. We just don't understand why nothing's happened to him. Just how can it be? If you called me tomorrow and driving a \$650,000 SL65 AMG, someone surely would look - would - would comment. They'd look it up. They'd go and investigate it. They'd work out where the car came from. They'd work out that apparently 10 per cent of it was paid for it in cash. They would - something would happen to me. If I suddenly started paying my credit card off with cash or my mortgages or loans off with cash payments, something would happen to me. Why doesn't that happen to him? Feel free to check on my cash.

Sandy White-O

| The - the question I sort of asked myself as you're talking is regardless of what track we go down to try and do something about Tony - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

| - - - and the others, because to be honest, Tony's - whilst he's probably your biggest thorn in your side, I think sufficiently fast enough that he's going to end up in gaol anyway. There's still going to be problems regardless ongoing.

MS GOBBO: Yep, oh, there will be, yeah.

Sandy White-O

So whatever is to be done is to be done

.....

MS GOBBO: Got a lot of resources.

Sandy White-O

But I question - I question whether they've got sufficient trust in you to get involved in some of the things that - for example, if we go down the track of an

 - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

- - - and maybe there's the option for the - to



MS GOBBO: Milad trusts me and probably, if not equally, slightly more than Tony does about some things, as does his brother. I - - -

Sandy White-O

Which one, Horty?

MS GOBBO: Horty, yep.

Sandy White-O

When was the last time you actually had a face-to-face conversation with Horty?

MS GOBBO: About a week ago, maybe two weeks ago.

Sandy White-O

And Milad?

MS GOBBO: Oh, he'd be a bit longer. He'd be about - he's staying away because he knows what - he's put it on another client of mine to pay some other bloke's legal fees 'cause naturally that makes sense. "I'm acting for you, you're Milad, and you're telling him to pay me for his fees. You don't even - and this bloke doesn't even know me."

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: And he knows, 'cause I've said to - I spoke to him on the phone about a week ago and said, "Look, come and sort this out, talk to them. I don't understand" - but that's another saga where I reckon it was his gear that got pinched and everyone's sort of in control over the two people that are charged and he knows that I won't - I'm not gunna make somebody plead and go to gaol when they possibly have a defence.

Sandy White-O

| Which is the one that you - - -

MS GOBBO: But anyway, he's staying away a little bit because of his financial thing.

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: But - - -

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Sandy White-O

: Which is the one you think's the - the smartest
of the bunch?

MS GOBBO: Probably Horty.

Sandy White-O

And why's that?

MS GOBBO: 'Cause he hasn't been caught and my belief is he's a
drug dealer.

Sandy White-O

Do they ever talk to you about investing money
or hiding money or using trust accounts or any of those
sort of things?

MS GOBBO: No, I'm kind of a wasted space there in the sense
that I - I don't have one 'cause I'm not - well, I've got
a - even my clerk's got a but they make
inquiries about - you could put \$10,000 in there tomorrow
to cover some fees for some things, but you couldn't put
- I dunno, I suppose if you were charged - like, if you
were a Mick Gatto or someone charged with it and you had
a - if I were the QC and I was charging seven grand a day
or something - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: - - - then you could in theory deposit
three-quarters of a million or something.

Sandy White-O

: Mm'hm.

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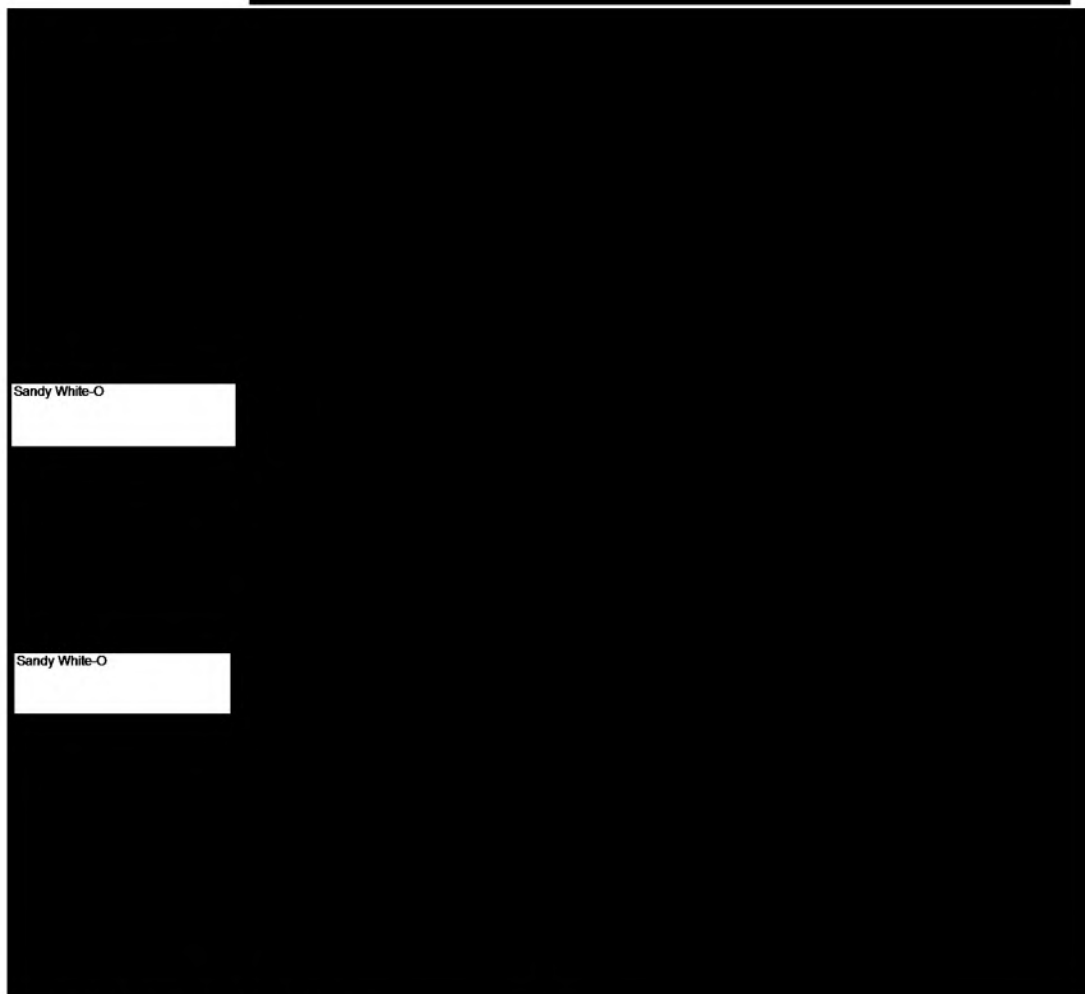
MS GOBBO: But you couldn't get away with - like, no-one ever asks me about that because you know you can put 10 grand, maybe 20 grand there. Like, I'll ask where it's coming from, so that's - I don't really ask about that. No, they don't - I - I think they've got - well and truly got enough connections for that.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: It's not something I really - no, not something I've really spoken about.

Sandy White-O



Sandy White-O

Sandy White-O

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Sandy White-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: - - - yeah, they'd be interested.

Sandy White-O

Would they?

MS GOBBO: Tony would be, in particular.

Sandy White-O

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the text of Sandy White-O's response.

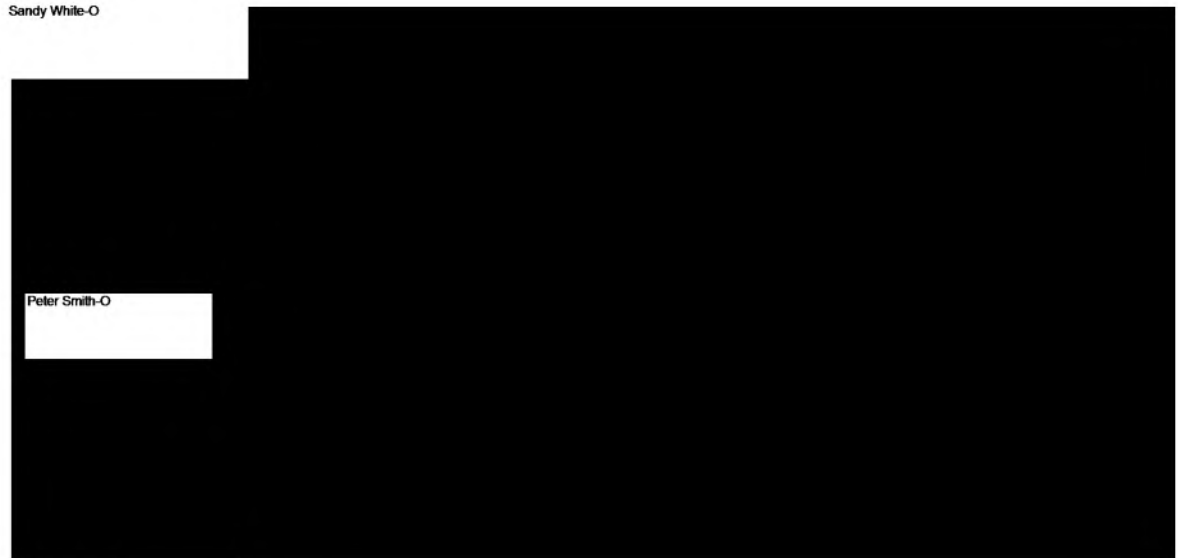
MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

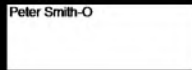
: - - - would they say - - -

MS GOBBO: No.

Sandy White-O

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the text of Sandy White-O's response.

Peter Smith-O

A small black rectangular redaction box covering the text of Peter Smith-O's response.

Sandy White-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: I'd have to be - - -

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Peter Smith-O

Build up to it.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: But, no, they wouldn't - they wouldn't - wouldn't -
you know, they wouldn't jump up and pat me down and say,
"What are you asking that for?"

Sandy White-O

No, we - we wouldn't be worried about that. I
think you're - you're safe on that front for the time
being but it's more - you say you've been hands off
getting involved in anything or everything.

MS GOBBO: That's it, that's absolutely - - -

Sandy White-O

: From what

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

So for you to - - -

MS GOBBO: No, I - can I just qualify that. I think I have -
I've certainly - I don't take their - I don't
their money. I'm not involved in drugs. I don't take
drugs. I don't use them. I wouldn't ask for 'em. I
wouldn't - I wouldn't even introduce someone to them
because people approach me and say, "Oh, you know Tony."
You know, "I need a source," or something, please, why

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would you want to ask me these things? And I often get -
like, it's probably another copper trying to set me up.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: I just - I don't do that. What I don't know is what
things they're doing, where they're saying I'm
involved - - -

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: - - - or they're saying I'm doing something.

Classic example: the guy I'm talking about who - who's

[Redacted] Relevance Relevance He's been
told by [Redacted] that he's got to pay this [Redacted] Relevance [Redacted]
told him he's got to pay [Redacted] Relevance [Redacted] says to me,
"What - what for? [Redacted]
They're not even charged with anything to do with drugs,
but apparently [Redacted] think he's entitled to [Redacted] Relevance so
he's putting pressure on [Redacted] Relevance [Redacted] is saying to me,
"I haven't got any money. What am I supposed to do?" and
the crooks court date is getting closer and closer and no
money has been paid.

Sandy White-O

That's to pay for his legal fees?

MS GOBBO: [Redacted] Relevance [Redacted] - - -

Sandy White-O

| No, the other fella.

MS GOBBO: The other fella.

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Sandy White-O

You're not representing him?

MS GOBBO: No, I am.

Sandy White-O

Oh - - -

MS GOBBO: I'm representing one of them.

Sandy White-O

Who is it?

MS GOBBO: It's a guy called [REDACTED], but it's not the cocaine trafficking, it's - it's tobacco. Look, it's not a fiasco because there's a - I don't why you're laughing because - - -

Peter Smith-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: - - - everything is a fiasco because that is a raid by some police officer whose name is [REDACTED] who - or [REDACTED] whatever his name is, where I understand that here's a large sum of money that went missing crooks are charged with \$2 million worth of cut tobacco - - -

Sandy White-O

: Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - for \$228,000 cash. Like, there's much more money there than that. No complaint's been made to ESD but - and - - -

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Sandy White-O

And is this - was this something that happened
at Wangaratta or is this a - - -

MS GOBBO: No, this - Altona or something.

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: Although I can't remember where the warehouse was
because the copper was from Melbourne CI, Melbourne RRU,
wherever he was from. That's two and a half years ago.
They didn't lay charges until after then they
.....

Sandy White-O

: [Redacted] Relevance [Redacted]
[Redacted]

MS GOBBO: [Redacted]

Sandy White-O

And does [Redacted] Relevance [Redacted] owe [Redacted] standing
over him?

MS GOBBO: [Redacted] Relevance [Redacted]

[Redacted] but he's being stood over, and I don't think
[Redacted] Relevance [Redacted] talks to anyone else about - since [Redacted] Relevance [Redacted]
[Redacted] Relevance [Redacted] the fact that he is being stood over.

Sandy White-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: But he talks to me about it, and when he started
talking to me about it, I thought [Redacted]
why on earth would he be telling me the stuff he was

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telling me?

Sandy White-O

Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: And I - to a degree, I saw him three - two - three days ago or four days ago and I thought to myself at the time, "Why are you telling me this stuff?" Try to understand, I go home from seeing someone like that for hours and I think to myself, "Why? What does it mean? Why is he telling me that? Why is he putting that in my head? Maybe he's recording me." I can't relax, I can't sleep properly. I'm gunna end up having another stroke at the rate I'm going.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: I dunno how ^{Relevance} but I can't remember what your question was but that. Anyway, no, I think that was about deposit of money or maybe - yeah. So ^{Relevance} - but even ^{Relevance} you wouldn't get it in - I couldn't put it my clerk's trust account, 15, 20 maybe. ^{Relevance} I wouldn't do, nor would I do it for - in circumstances where it's coming - can't come from ^{Relevance} He has no access to those amounts of money. Even if he comes and gives me - you know, say, for example, it was a Crown casino cheque - ^{Relevance} let's just say if it was, he's ^{Relevance} for dealing so technically you could charge me if I take that from him. So he can't deal with it, but

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Milad wouldn't care about that.

Sandy White-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: He should be going - paying it to a solicitor, but he doesn't want to do that because (1) all these will know, and it's true, solicitors solicitors take the money, they don't pay barristers. At any one stage I'm always owed about \$150,000 in fees. Crooks have paid them, well and truly paid them, and I just - you know, it's the nature of the profession. If I sue - you're a solicitor and I sue you, the next - you're never gunna give me work again, so I just keep carrying the debt, hoping that, "Well, the next thing I do for you, maybe I'll kind of make up for the last bit." It's just continuous. I'm on a continuous, you know, treadmill with the Tax Office and trying to get in what's owed to you. But they won't pay that Relevance till it's worth it because they think if they pay it to me, I've got it and they can control what I do. That's what it's all about.

Sandy White-O

: O.K. Are you happy to keep talking about Tony with us?

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: Are you interested to keep talking?

Sandy White-O

At this point, yes. There's some things that

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you've mentioned that you could explore or

MS GOBBO: I - I suppose the other thing that I've got - we should be going through your motive, I've got no reason to be inventing any of this, unless you think that I'm going to go back in and say

Sandy White-O

And that's - that's a concern for us.

MS GOBBO: You can - you can test

Sandy White-O

Well, I think we've - we've got sufficient safeguards that it's not gonna matter.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

But in any event, I think I said to you at the outset, at this point, you don't know us

MS GOBBO:

Sandy White-O

|: don't say for certain what you're here to talk to me and what's necessary, so you've done it and you go and talk to other police and try and find out who us are - - -

MS GOBBO: Spooks.

Sandy White-O

|:

MS GOBBO: Spooks.

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Sandy White-O

: three or four say, "Well,
who the hell are you talking about?" and - and

MS GOBBO: Why on earth would I do that?

Sandy White-O

That's right.

MS GOBBO: What I would say is - and I often say there's only
one or two people who know - my sister being one of 'em
and I said to her many a time if something happens to me,
you talk to Jim Velos because he knows and I'm close to
him and you talk to him - in recent times, talk to Stuart
Bateson 'cause no-one else - like, there - and I've got -
actually from time to time I say, "Don't ever speak to
this bloke," or, "that bloke," because, like, the copper
who put my address in the hand-up brief - - -

Sandy White-O

: Who was that, just out of interest?

MS GOBBO: Oh say - no, I can, Mark Steedman,
Inspector.

Sandy White-O

:

MS GOBBO: Exactly. He was on stress leave.

Sandy White-O

: Just one last thing - and I know I'm probably
flipping, flipping from one subject to another, but
there's a lot of information in the end, a lot of it I'm
familiar with and some that I'm not, so we need to look

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and just sort of collect our thoughts.

MS GOBBO: And go - and then presumably go and check some of
the things that I've said to see if they're accurate.

Sandy White-O : Oh, absolutely.

Peter Smith-O : Exactly.

Sandy White-O : But - - -

MS GOBBO: Exactly.

Sandy White-O : - - - your reputation is - I'm getting the
strong that that's something you're concerned
about.

MS GOBBO: Yes.

Sandy White-O : And quite rightly, I think.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O : Putting aside the fact that maybe if Tony goes
to gaol and Milad and Horty and Kaba - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O : - - - they all go to gaol, yeah, and you look at
sort of where your life is from that point onwards - - -

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MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O : - - - what would actually have to occur for you
to re-establish your reputation?

MS GOBBO: What do you mean to re-establish?

Sandy White-O : Well, if - if your reputation - reputation is
.....

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O : Yeah - - -

MS GOBBO: To - to - yeah - - -

Sandy White-O |: How would you get that back where you wanted it
to be? You know, certainly for you - - -

MS GOBBO: Stop their drug work. That - that would be the
first thing.

Sandy White-O |: O.K.

MS GOBBO: Stop doing drug - stop acting for drug dealers.
That would be the - that would be the first thing. You
wouldn't know - you wouldn't have even seen me if I
didn't act for drug dealers. Stop speaking to them and
stop acting for them and - and all the talons that - all
the tentacles that - just stop acting drug
dealers, stop acting for organised crime figures.

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Peter Smith-O : Can I say if you cut out drug dealers, you're gonna make a living?

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Peter Smith-O |: Yeah.

MS GOBBO: My ideal situation, it is - - -

Peter Smith-O |: Yeah.

MS GOBBO: - - - a business, like a car wash. It's bringing in a reasonable amount of income every week. What stress do you have? My God, it's nothing compared to the stress that I have every day, and work a couple of days a week. Like all these - like, some, you know - and I suppose the next question is would I be happy to have that much lower kind of - just be nobody really - more than happy to be. I was originally. I'm happy to be. That's why I said no to every single newspaper and magazine and TV show this year. I've tried not to be quoted, I've tried not to be on TV, done a reasonable job of it.

Sandy White-O : And you think you - you've thought this through, the business, the business perspective, if it was something other than lawyering, you could live with that?

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O |: How long have you been lawyering?

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MS GOBBO: 10 years - no, nine, nine years, six, so - nine
years.

Sandy White-O : You're gunna - when you say you're going to have
a couple of days a week - - -

MS GOBBO: I'm getting too old.

Sandy White-O Couple of days a week?

MS GOBBO: Yeah, I'm getting too old - to be frank about this
..... to blokes I don't really know. I'm 32. I'm
nearly 33. What have I done with my lief?

Sandy White-O : O.K.

MS GOBBO: Seriously. What am I doing? I've had a stroke. My
day is - every - at the moment, I get up at 6.00,
6 o'clock. I go to work by 7.00 or quarter past 7. I
just spend all day working. Very rarely do I go anywhere
or do anything. To work all weekend, for what?

Sandy White-O : Mm.

Peter Smith-O Excuse me, Steve, for a minute.

MS GOBBO: Yeah

Peter Smith-O : Yeah. Yeah, just I dunno, not
necessarily your position but someone that's - you've

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been doing your whole life.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Peter Smith-O

10 years in a very obviously intense way - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Peter Smith-O

- - - to put it one way, suddenly you're
gunna - - -

MS GOBBO: You see, what I want to have - - -

Peter Smith-O

- - - pull out of it and do something totally
different.

MS GOBBO: Yeah, I have to - - -

Peter Smith-O

It's just a dream now. It's the - it's the, "Jeez,
I wish - - -"

MS GOBBO: I really noticed when - - -

Peter Smith-O

"I wish that'd happen," but is it - - -

MS GOBBO: No, I really noticed when in the paper the other day

.....

Peter Smith-O

Got to be bullshit.

MS GOBBO: No, no, no, it had men had had mid-life crises,

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who suddenly dropped out of the corporate world for a year and they - you know, they stayed at home with their wife and kids and did something normal. I suppose it's like normal people who are entitled to long service leave or whatever you people - - -

Peter Smith-O

Yep.

MS GOBBO: 15 years. Part of the problem with being self-employed is you don't like to say no, because if you say no, that word goes elsewhere. As a barrister it's all about your name, your current popularity. Get someone bailed today, everyone loves you. Fail in a bail application tomorrow, no-one wants you.

Peter Smith-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: It's just the - that's the nature of how it is. But it is possible to have a child and work three days a week or work two days a week. It is - I know that if I was married or if I had some particular reason to race home every night, I would. But the rate I'm going, I'm gonna end up dead and, you know, it's something that - I'm very close to Jim Velos and for the last 12 months we have been actively looking for other things.

Peter Smith-O

Together or - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah, not as actively - - -

Peter Smith-O

- - - separately - - -

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MS GOBBO: - - - looking - I guess you'd qualify that because if you don't have a job today, you would be really out there looking for a job because I've got a source of income. I don't - I'm not racing to do it.

Peter Smith-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: But the other thing I've got to keep in mind is I've had a stroke. I will never get income protection insurance ever again in my life.

Peter Smith-O

O.K.

MS GOBBO: Or if I do, they'll charge me some exorbitant amount of money.

Peter Smith-O

That's right.

MS GOBBO: And do I need to do something which doesn't involve this level of stress?

Peter Smith-O

But obviously a crucial part of all that is is income, and I don't know what sort of lifestyle you're used to, but only you know if you did something else, are you gonna be happy to - to sustain yourself on a - a different level, if it was - if it was a different
.....

MS GOBBO: Well, of course drug cases, I wouldn't need chambers. Do you know how much they - I bought it

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six years ago, but the loan is a hundred per cent financed, so - and it's an interest-only loan.

Peter Smith-O

So you're still just paying - yeah, okay.

MS GOBBO: Yeah. It - it's right - - -

Peter Smith-O

What's that costing you?

MS GOBBO: Oh, 1500, or 1450, 1600, something like that. It's not a flashy place but - so, for example, take out - let's say I didn't have all these gigantic drug briefs everywhere, the 50 folders from this one and the 30 folders from that one.

Peter Smith-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: No crooks ever want to come to my chambers, so I may as well not have them anyway.

Peter Smith-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: I could work from home. So there's - get rid of chambers, get rid of the second computer, the phone line, the - you know, get rid of the great expense of all that and halve it because if you're not - you just don't need that amount of stuff and not doing it that expensively.

Peter Smith-O

What about the - how difficult is gonna be if - if these real substantial problems in your life as you see

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them are out of the way and stay inside, in an ideal situation, probably for both sides at this point, if that - that was to occur, how difficult is it gunna be for some other new player to come along and say, "Oh, I'm in the shit," a similar situation, "You've been recommended"?

MS GOBBO: You mean a cook, you mean, or - - -

Peter Smith-O
Yeah, yeah, he gets busted.

MS GOBBO: Um - - -

Peter Smith-O
How is it - how are you gunna not get back into the cycle?

MS GOBBO: Well, partly because I don't intend to be doing things that - you've just got to learn to say no and saying - - -

Peter Smith-O
That's the - that's the basic question.

MS GOBBO: Yeah, that's right. And I've - when you've had a stroke and you can't speak, you can say no.

Peter Smith-O
Yeah. How long ago was it? I'm not familiar with the circumstances.

MS GOBBO: July 26th last year.

Peter Smith-O
Oh - - -

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MS GOBBO: July 24 last year.

Peter Smith-O Yeah what - - -

Sandy White-O Mr Bickley gunna realistic - I dunno
whether realistically he's gunna give Theo the arse - - -

MS GOBBO: He will if Tony tells him to.

Sandy White-O |: - - - then is he expected to come back to you?

MS GOBBO: Not to me, to a solicitor, to Solicitor 2 probably.

Sandy White-O Yeah.

MS GOBBO: Or he'll go wherever Tony sends him.

Sandy White-O Because, I mean, that's I suppose - 'cause
you've now represented does
that - - -

MS GOBBO: No. You've got 'em bail.

Sandy White-O - - - does it

MS GOBBO: No.

Sandy White-O |: No.

MS GOBBO: Technically only you know, you get - you

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get the instructions and I take those
instructions from you, I then can't act for - - -

Sandy White-O

: That person.

MS GOBBO: That's right, and I don't know what [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I
haven't seen it. I don't know what happened, and it's
better for you that I don't know and better for me that I
don't know.

Sandy White-O

Yeah yeah.

MS GOBBO: He does want to change [REDACTED] but I guess I'll
ring you about that on Monday.

Peter Smith-O

Yeah. Well, I mean, he's almost forced to, isn't
he? I mean - but it's not a bad - it's probably not a
bad decision on his behalf.

MS GOBBO: I said - funny you should say that because [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] rang me and said, "What do you think about this?"
'cause [REDACTED] been dealing with him. I haven't seen him
since he got bail.

Peter Smith-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: He wants to change [REDACTED] I can't even
remember the reason why and [REDACTED] said, "I don't think it's
a good idea to go to court so quickly," blah blah blah.
I said, "Are you kidding me?" Bearing in mind that he's

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and the heat that that
[REDACTED] attracted, I said, "I'm sure the police wouldn't
object to that." I dunno what's happened

Sandy White-O

: No. I mean

MS GOBBO: Was that secret men's business about me?

Peter Smith-O

Well, yeah, it is about you obviously.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Peter Smith-O

There's a lot of information that you've - you've
talked about and you've touched on and, you know, a whole
range of things, as I said, some unfamiliar, some are
not. Steve is familiar here with the majority of it. If
we spend too much more time with you, my head's gonna be
spinning and I'll start losing track of what it is that
you said.

MS GOBBO: I so - - -

Peter Smith-O

Yeah, yep.

MS GOBBO: Why you laughing at me?

Sandy White-O

: I'm feeling the same

MS GOBBO: I mean, I actually need an alcoholic drink.

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Sandy White-O

:

Peter Smith-O

I told you you could have - - -

MS GOBBO: I a drink drink and a cigarette
..... here.

Peter Smith-O

I can former, not the latter. What do
you want?

MS GOBBO: No, it's all right. I'll wait, wait until we go
outside.

Sandy White-O

: Yeah, that's fine. What we'll do is we'll
.....

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

: need to speak before, we'll give you
a phone number - - -

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

: - - - which will be for ^{Peter Smith-O} and any contact
from this point onwards will be through that phone number
and through ^{Peter Smith-O}

MS GOBBO: Mm'hm.

Sandy White-O

: We can talk to you about your own security and
some of the things we'll do to make sure - - -

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MS GOBBO: Utterly paranoid

Sandy White-O

Well, the only thing I can guarantee you
today - - -

Peter Smith-O

Good.

MS GOBBO: Pardon?

Peter Smith-O

Good.

MS GOBBO: Good being paranoid about it? Not that - I - can I
tell you how sad I am? I drive around the block twice
when I get home, looking for cars. I write down car
registrations. I wake up in the night and look out the
window. I used to do it much more before the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] much more during that time and
not as much since, but that's sort of stuff. I am
paranoid. But at the same time, I'm can I
say, and there are some police because my
belief is that they're corrupt.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: Whether it's founded in 1 per cent truth or a
hundred per cent accuracy, who knows, but - or that I'm
being set up by somebody, so I lead a pretty lonely life.

Sandy White-O

Look, I don't want to build on your paranoia.

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MS GOBBO: Yeah, but I should be paranoid.

Sandy White-O

But you should be paranoid. You - you - - -

MS GOBBO: I

Sandy White-O

No, but I'm not gunna sit here and say

.....

Peter Smith-O

No.

Sandy White-O

_____ : The thing is, you - - -

MS GOBBO: Of the - of the crooks.

Sandy White-O

: Yeah. Well, there's a - there's a range of
things you need to be concerned about - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

_____ : - - - and your reputation I think is right up
there. But you're surrounded by some pretty ordinary
people - - -

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

█: - - - which you've figured that out ages ago. I
don't - like, we've taken time to do a little bit of
research about you.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

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Sandy White-O

I don't see any real sort of decent people around you. I don't see any real sort of lifelines for you at the moment in your life.

MS GOBBO: There's a couple, but that's about it.

Sandy White-O

: Yeah.

MS GOBBO: Yeah, a couple that are not connected with the legal profession, yeah.

Sandy White-O

_____ : O.K. So you've definitely got to do something.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

: You make that decision. Now, whether you want to continue it or not is entirely up to you.

MS GOBBO: No, I made the decision about 12 months ago.

Sandy White-O

: Yeah.

MS GOBBO: trying to sort of had a lot of complications with Stuart. I need someone who - like, I'm sure he'll tell you if you speak to him, and you may not be able to speak to him, bearing in mind that no-one is supposed to know I'm talking to you here - - -

Sandy White-O

_____ : We - we will not touch base with Stuart or any other person who might know or might have even made some

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overtures towards - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

This stays within this group of five here.

MS GOBBO: O.K.

Sandy White-O

: Yep. And this is really important: the only way that this can muck up - and - and let's, you know, be blatantly honest with each other - you are a little bit of a celebrity.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

: It's difficult to have meetings with you because you're recognisable. Police are the biggest gossipmongers probably in the world.

MS GOBBO: Of course.

Sandy White-O

And if word got around that Nicola Gobbo was talking to the police, it'd just spread through that building down at St Kilda like it's wildfire.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

: You've got legitimate reason to talk to police during the day in course of trade - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

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Sandy White-O : - - - which - which is a good thing for us, but there's a lot of problems with talking to you in this sort of manner.

MS GOBBO: Yep, yeah.

Sandy White-O : And as I said, we'll do things to make sure that it's totally secure. Our biggest risk of it becoming insecure is this is something you'll do I think reasonably well.

MS GOBBO: Right.

Sandy White-O : But you're the one that can mess it up, to be quite frank.

MS GOBBO: I wouldn't mess it up

Sandy White-O : So in any event, for the weekend, if there's a grave issue and you need to talk to somebody urgently, you know how to get on to Steve and Paul and they'll know how to get onto us. As of next Monday, we'll make some other arrangements.

MS GOBBO: I don't think there'll be anything on the weekend - - -

Sandy White-O : I don't think so either, but just - just - - -

Peter Smith-O : Just in case.

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MS GOBBO: Yeah

Sandy White-O

So are you happy with that?

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

: If you decide you're not happy with it, if you decide you've had enough, you decide it's not working, you stick your hand up and say you want out, that's it, it's over.

MS GOBBO: I just need some - this I see is a way out of it all and not end up in either gaol or dead. I don't know what else to do I could go away for six months but that's just running away. It's not dealing with the problem, not dealing with issues.

Sandy White-O

: Well, it's not dealing with it because if you disappeared, I think there'd be some questions raised - - -

MS GOBBO: Massive assumptions.

Sandy White-O

_____ |: - - - by Tony and the others and - yeah, they will start to assume - - -

MS GOBBO: But that's - isn't it a mad situation to be in? I feel like I can't escape.

Sandy White-O

: Yeah. Well, you're obviously so, you

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know, there's a lot of people - not a lot, but there's a number of people in the community that have been put in the exact same position by - by the Mokbels or people of similar vein. This is what these people do. They use and abuse and exploit. You hit the nail on the head when you were talking about people being lazy, stupid or greedy.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

: My experience is that greed is the biggest - single biggest motivator for those sort of people and it's normally what brings them undone.

MS GOBBO: Greed is - I don't even know - I can't - I'm astounded. Why can't you stop? I don't know about you but if I had a - if I'd paid off my mortgage, that would be - wouldn't it be nice to not - from my point of view, imagine owning a car and - like, my car's on finance, but having something fully paid, so it's actually yours and you don't have to - let's assume I'm not someone who has to live in a \$3.2 million penthouse like he - Mokbel's living in, 'cause I don't, you're just happy to reach - - -

Sandy White-O

█: You live down at Docklands, don't you? That'd have to be 3 million easy, wouldn't it?

MS GOBBO: Docklands?

Sandy White-O

: Is it Docklands or - - -

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MS GOBBO: I don't live at Docklands.

Sandy White-O

Eh?

MS GOBBO: I live at - - -

Sandy White-O

: You haven't got the big penthouse looking out
over the - the bay?

MS GOBBO: His house? Are you kidding me? It's not - it's
nowhere near that sort of thing. It's a two-bedroom
apartment. But - now you've really spooked me of course
which is probably intentional. But if you reach a
certain level where you're happy, I don't understand what
these people do that they've got to keep - greed is such
a I learnt a very valuable lesson last year
which was that just like that, you're gone.

Sandy White-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: And I did for a short period of time afterwards - I
though I had changed a few things but nothing changed.

Sandy White-O

|: Yeah.

MS GOBBO: And I've gradually slipped back into - - -

Sandy White-O

: Yep.

MS GOBBO: - - - a worse lifestyle, sleep-wise, exercise-wise,

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all the rest and and part of that is the way
you deal with stress brought about by and
they're the people that need to be eliminated.

Sandy White-O

Yeah, yeah.

MS GOBBO: You know, if you don't spend time with your friends,
all your friends drop off because you're either too busy
with work or when you have got free time - I know it's
sad, but I don't want to spend time with anyone. I just
want to sit at home and read a book 'cause I can't be
bothered talking.

Sandy White-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: And that means you've got to

Sandy White-O

How many people have - have strokes at 33?

MS GOBBO: 31.

Sandy White-O

: 31?

MS GOBBO: 31 then.

Sandy White-O

What's - what's the percentages of that? What
did they tell you?

MS GOBBO: I - I dunno, but it's - it's - my neurologist
regards my stroke as inexplicable and it
wasn't my blood pressure, nothing like that.

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It was just a - can't explain why a tiny aneurism - a tiny clot came off and an aneurism in your heart, why you even had an aneurism, why that happened then the hole in your heart, can't explain why that happened, and stroke to your brain and, hello, big time. The part of the brain that it hits is the big controller of speech.

Sandy White-O

: Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: Is that not a sign or what?

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: Yeah, could have hit, like, wherever.

Sandy White-O

So we need to hurry up in case it happens again and you can't talk to us.

MS GOBBO: Very funny

Peter Smith-O

Can you learn sign language?

Sandy White-O

: the morning we spoke to you, you'd had, what, four days of headaches - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O

- - - in a row?

MS GOBBO: Actually I went to the doctor with chest pain the

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other day. He just thinks I'm a - the best thing is when you've had a stroke, you ring up your GP, "Come down right now."

Sandy White-O

: Straight in.

MS GOBBO:

Peter Smith-O

Give you - give you the full gamut.

MS GOBBO: you know, any thing that happened before that stroke - yeah, like, you say to people, "I woke up by myself and I had a headache and I later realised I had had a stroke during my sleep," people laugh and they go, "Oh, yeah, just through the night. What did you - what did you do during the night?" and I said, "No, I woke up by myself with no more than a headache." You know, got up, got dressed, had a shower, blow-dried my hair, didn't really think anything of it, hadn't tried to eat anything, but when I eventually did, I realised my face was - my face was gone.

Sandy White-O

Numb, mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: But not until someone rang me did I realise that I couldn't' speak and that's - just to have a headache and no other real - I felt fine besides that and it just so suddenly happened and you've got no warning whatsoever, and the last thing that I thought at the time was a stroke

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Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: So the answer to your question is probably - there's probably some ridiculously high - - -

Sandy White-O

I don't know anyone at that age.

MS GOBBO: No.

Sandy White-O

:

MS GOBBO: I kind of think that there are a range of things that you view or believe can do or - I just don't think it can be that hard to investigate and charge these people.

Sandy White-O

{ The hard thing - and we'll talk about it now - the hard thing is working it out in a way that doesn't it's very easy to do - - -

Peter Smith-O

Something - - -

Sandy White-O

: It's probably very easy to use you to get Tony charged with something, but if it ends up blowing it out of the water - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah, I know you're not gunna - - -

Peter Smith-O

| Not gunna do that.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

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Sandy White-O

- - - it doesn't work, so - - -

MS GOBBO: How can it - can it be - I would have thought it was still - I just don't regard him as clever enough to have - I assume from that, all things involved in I don't - I just don't rate him as clever enough to have gotten away with crime for the last three years or four years - what is it, three years - while he's been on bail. Maybe it's - maybe it's a funding thing, maybe not enough resources. I dunno.

Sandy White-O

: Oh, well, maybe you should talk to Relevance and ask him.

MS GOBBO: Talk to Relevance

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: What do you mean?

Sandy White-O

Relevance, ask him.

MS GOBBO: About what?

Sandy White-O

How Tony's got away with it for the last three years, three of four years.

MS GOBBO: I'm not following, sorry. You said talk to Relevance

Sandy White-O

Yeah, what he's saying that - - -

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MS GOBBO: No, I'm saying. I'm not saying - I could. I have talked to Relevance about that sort of stuff.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: I'm not - I'm - I think you're misinterpreting me. I'm saying I don't see I assume he's somehow involved, otherwise why is he so obsessed or why does he desperately want to know what the police have got or what evidence they've got that somehow involves him because he doesn't think that his name was just dropped in the record of interview out of sheer - 'cause they had nothing better to do and wanted to put his name in it.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: If - if I assume correctly that - see, I don't - I don't believe garbage about how he wins on 95 per cent of the horse races he bets on. On the odd occasion he's given me a tip and I've actually rung up the TAB account - and feel free to check my \$200 worth of gambling. Every single one of them ahs lost. So I can't imagine - I don't believe that that's money from gambling. I believe it's drug money.

Sandy White-O

Mm.

MS GOBBO: And he's - I don't know what he - I don't know the specifics but that's that being the case, how hard can it be to - to introduce an informer or a police

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officer or - to just focus on him 24 hours a day, seven days a week for however long. I mean, he drives around with 12 mobile phones in a bag. After [REDACTED] got arrested, eh thought he was going to be arrested, so I think the phones disappeared.

Sandy White-O

: Mm.

MS GOBBO: But I think they're back now.

Sandy White-O

|: Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: Just - I just think there are a lot of - not a lot, but a few people that are equally frustrated - - -

Sandy White-O

: Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: - - - with - you know, how can this go on like this? And I bet it'd fuel his ego and his - the way he he says, "Ha, well, you know, I've got coppers in my back pocket," blah blah blah.

Sandy White-O

|: Mm.

MS GOBBO: But people believe the well - - -

Sandy White-O

: I think you've got a pretty good idea of the sorts of things that can be done and we can talk about this a lot, in greater detail about it next week.

MS GOBBO: O.K. Had enough for some reason?

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Sandy White-O : Have I?

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Sandy White-O No, I could sit here all night and ask
some - - -

MS GOBBO: O.K.

Sandy White-O |: Listen to you talk about that particular family
quite easily, but I don't think it'll achieve very much.

MS GOBBO: O.K.

Sandy White-O |: The objective today was really just to sort of
test the water with you, see where you could be
useful - - -

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O - - - and most of all, make sure that you're
comfortable continuing on. If you're comfortable to have
another meeting next week, we've achieved our objective
today.

MS GOBBO: O.K.

Sandy White-O |: There's no reason to hurry this.

MS GOBBO: Only - only my health, that's all.

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Sandy White-O

: Well, hopefully now that you're - you're
actually direction.

STEVE: It might feel like a great relief off your shoulders.

MS GOBBO: I did feel - I do feel relieved.

Sandy White-O

|: Yep.

MS GOBBO: I feel sick talking about it or coming to grips with
the fact that I am talking about it but, you know, it's
always a relief to be able to talk about something. Do
you think I need to worry about, like - like, ringing

Peter Smith-O

from my phone or anything like that?

Sandy White-O

_____ : No.

Peter Smith-O

No.

Sandy White-O

: No.

MS GOBBO: O.K.

Sandy White-O

|: And we'll talk about that next week.

Peter Smith-O

Yeah.

Sandy White-O

|: If I thought that that was gonna cause you
problems, we wouldn't do it. You look tired

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MS GOBBO: No, I'm all right.

MR:

Sandy White-O

All right. Nice to meet you. Thank you.

MS GOBBO: All right. See you, ^{Peter Smith-O}

Peter Smith-O

Thanks.

Sandy White-O

Thank you.

STEVE: When we came in here, there was a lot of people up and
down I might go down first.

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

STEVE: Are you happy with that?

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

STEVE: in the lift on the way up, so - - -

Peter Smith-O

O.K.

STEVE: What - - -

Peter Smith-O

Probably most but nonetheless, yeah,
still - - -

STEVE:

MS GOBBO:

STEVE: They were all Asian heroin what level were
we on, 2 or something?

Peter Smith-O Oh weren't we, 1 or 2? But I'll see you
down there.

Sandy White-O : O.K.

Peter Smith-O You happy - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah.

Peter Smith-O We'll try 2.

MR:

MS GOBBO: Oh, tonight

Peter Smith-O You - you've had your run.

MR:

MS GOBBO:

MR: chronic fatigue - - -

MS GOBBO: Yeah, yeah.

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MR: It's obviously I still had
..... Melbourne.

MS GOBBO: Oh, well, I was a Carlton supporter but

Sandy White-O

What about you

STEVE: Hawthorn.

Sandy White-O

: Hawthorn.

Peter Smith-O

Ah, up there with Carlton.

STEVE: Yeah Collingwood. Hope no-one barracks for
Collingwood, do they?

Peter Smith-O

No.

MS GOBBO: Collingwood?

STEVE: Yeah, I know.

MS GOBBO: used to barrack for Collingwood.

STEVE: Yeah, I know. No greater joy than watching them lose.

Sandy White-O

: So what's the plan tonight, you can go and watch
the footy or are you going out in town?

MS GOBBO: I'm gunna ring back the God knows how many people
that have left messages I can't really drive

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anywhere far 'cause I've got a car that's not mine, so
it's a loan car 'cause my car's being serviced today.

Sandy White-O

: You drive a BM, do you?

MS GOBBO: Pardon?

Sandy White-O

Do you drive a BMW normally?

MS GOBBO: Yeah. But the one I'm driving is not - like, I
refuse to pay the extra insurance to drive it for a day,
so I've got to be very careful driving it.

Sandy White-O

So what sort of BM do you normally drive?

MS GOBBO: A Z4.

Sandy White-O

: Oh, okay.

MS GOBBO: Yep.

Sandy White-O

They're sporty.

MS GOBBO: Yeah, but I think managed to negotiate
when I bought it. I'm hopeless when it comes to, you
know, see it, immediately fall in love with it, then
worry about - - -

Peter Smith-O

Ideal consumer.

MS GOBBO: Exactly. Anyway, after my stroke, one of the things

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I

MR: (On telephone) Hello?

MS GOBBO: myself.

MR: All right.

MR: You right from here?

MS GOBBO: My car

MR:

MS GOBBO: to depreciate by 30 or 40 ground
..... I went to BMW with a mate of mine who's
probably one of the people - he is a lifeline in my life
and he negotiated someone who had a lot of
involvement and a lot of knowledge of the car industry.
The poor BMW salesman didn't know what had hit him and
thought he was my mother and he was a builder and there
was all this bullshit. It was funny.

Sandy White-O

: Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: But the guy I went with knew about dealer holdbacks
and margins and all this stuff I didn't have a clue
about, so he knocked about 25,000 off the price.

Peter Smith-O

Jeez.

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MS GOBBO: but I couldn't - I'm not getting the full
credit 'cause I could never have done it.

Sandy White-O

Yeah.

MS GOBBO: I would've just - O.K., what's that, might have
something really and truly - you're only allowed to claim
up to 58 and a half grand as a tax deduction. Beyond
that, you can't claim it, so you try not - I tried not to
spend - there's no point going and buying - pay and get
on finance a \$200,000 car because you can't claim it
anyway.

Sandy White-O

_____ |: Mm'hm.

MS GOBBO: And I'm sure I've got better things to do than spend
that much money every week on a car.

MR: Yeah.

MS GOBBO: Then I'm not driving a \$650,000 car.

MR: No.

STEVE: All right.

Peter Smith-O

| O.K.

STEVE: Thanks.

Sandy White-O

|: See you.

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STEVE: See you.

Peter Smith-O

The time is now - how it flies - 8.32, 2032 hours
by my watch and I'm turning the machine off.

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