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Royal Commission  
into the Management of Police Informants

STATEMENT OF <sup>Cruze - DSS</sup>

1. My full name is <sup>Cruze - DSS</sup>
2. I am a [REDACTED] attached to the [REDACTED] at Victoria Police.
3. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 23 May 2019. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

Educational background and employment history (Q1)

4. I graduated high school in 1979.
5. In 2009 I obtained a Graduate Certificate in Applied Management.
6. I graduated from the Police Academy in [REDACTED]. A summary of my progression through the ranks is set out below:
  - (a) In 1979, I was a [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] Police Station and then the [REDACTED] Police Station;
  - (b) In 1980, I was a [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED];
  - (c) From 1980 to 1981, I was [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED] Police Station;
  - (d) In 1982, I was a [REDACTED] (plain clothes - local investigations) in the [REDACTED] Police Station;
  - (e) From 1982 to 1985, I was a [REDACTED] at [REDACTED];
  - (f) From 1985 to 1987, I was a [REDACTED] (Criminal Investigations) at the [REDACTED];
  - (g) From 1987 to 1989, I was a [REDACTED] at the [REDACTED];
  - (h) In 1989, I was a [REDACTED] (plain clothes-local investigations) at the [REDACTED] District Support Group;
  - (i) From 1989 to 1993, I was a [REDACTED] (plain clothes [REDACTED] / [REDACTED] investigations) at the [REDACTED];
  - (j) From 1993 to 1995, I was an [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]);
  - (k) In 1995, I was a [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] investigations) at the [REDACTED] Squad;
  - (l) From 1995 to 1996, I was a [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) at the [REDACTED];
  - (m) From 1996 to 1997, I was a [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) at the [REDACTED].

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- (n) Since 1997, I have been a [REDACTED] attached to the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- (o) From September 2012 to December 2012, I seconded to the [REDACTED]
- (p) In around January 2018 until April 2018, I seconded to the Victoria Police's [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

#### Involvement or association with any investigations that had dealings with Ms Gobbo (Q2)

7. To my knowledge, and with a single exception of Operation Posse which I discuss below, I have not had any involvement or association with an investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo.
8. It is my practice to maintain a police diary. My diary is a contemporaneous note of my on-duty activities each day. For the purpose of preparing this statement, my diary for the relevant period has been reviewed. It relevantly records as follows.
9. On 17 January 2006, I attended a briefing regarding Operation Posse with Detective Inspector Jim O'Brien and his team from the Purana taskforce and <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> Sandy White-O and his team from the Source Development Unit (SDU).<sup>1</sup> The briefing concerned the potential [REDACTED] who it was proposed [REDACTED] at which some of the targets of Operation Posse [REDACTED] with a view to [REDACTED] with those targets. [REDACTED]
10. I cannot recall, and my diary does not record, which members of DI O'Brien and <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> teams were in attendance at the briefing. I cannot recall, and my diary does not record, whether I learnt that Ms Gobbo was a human source before, during or after that briefing. I believe I would have learnt that Ms Gobbo was the source in question that day, as I had no reason to know that fact any earlier, but would have needed to know it for the purposes of planning an [REDACTED] operation.
11. Following the briefing, I tasked one of my sergeants, Detective Sergeant [REDACTED] with looking at the proposed job more closely. My diary records that the next day, 18 January 2006, Detective Sergeant [REDACTED] spoke with <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> Peter Smith-O of the SDU about the proposed job, that <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> Peter Smith-O was Ms Gobbo's handler, and that Detective Sergeant [REDACTED] then spoke to me about the job.<sup>2</sup>
12. I formed the view that using a [REDACTED] would be too dangerous and spoke with a counterpart in [REDACTED] police force about the potential use of [REDACTED] from another State. I did not disclose Ms Gobbo's identity to my counterpart. A formal request was processed.<sup>3</sup>
13. My diary records that on 2 February 2006, Detective Sergeant [REDACTED] interviewed Ms Gobbo in connection with the job and was unsure of her motivations and that

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<sup>1</sup> VPL.0099.0086.0001 at [0002]

<sup>2</sup> VPL.0099.0086.0001 at [0005]

<sup>3</sup> VPL.0099.0086.0042

Detective Sergeant [REDACTED] and I then discussed an appropriate [REDACTED] for the job.<sup>4</sup>

14. My diary records that on 14 February 2006, I spoke with DI O'Brien about Operation Posse.<sup>5</sup> I have no recollection of what was discussed.
15. My diary records that on 23 February 2006, I spoke with DI O'Brien about Operation Posse.<sup>6</sup> I have no recollection of what was discussed.
16. On 27 February 2006, Sergeant [REDACTED] and I attended a meeting with DI O'Brien of Purana and <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> [REDACTED] and <sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] of the SDU regarding Operation Posse. At that meeting, there was some discussion about information, and the quality of information, Ms Gobbo had provided and it was decided that the proposed [REDACTED] would not proceed.<sup>7</sup> I have no independent recollection of the meeting.
17. Thereafter, I had no further involvement in Operation Posse. To the best of my knowledge, no other operation or investigation in which I was involved had any dealings with Ms Gobbo.

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

18. I refer to my answer to question two above and in particular, to paragraph 10.
19. My involvement in Operation Posse was limited to the period between 17 January 2006 and 27 February 2006, when it was [REDACTED] of that operation [REDACTED] which they were [REDACTED]. That proposal did not proceed. Save for that instance, I am not aware of any other information or assistance which Ms Gobbo provided to Victoria Police.

**Awareness of others (Q4)**

20. To my knowledge, the following members of Victoria Police were aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police prior to the end of 2012: DI O'Brien of the Purana taskforce, <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> [REDACTED] and <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [REDACTED] of the SDU and Sergeant [REDACTED] of the Undercover Unit. That knowledge comes from my brief involvement in Operation Posse, described above.
21. Save for what has been reported in the media, I am not otherwise aware of other members of Victoria Police or other organisations who were aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to police. I expect that few people who did not need to know would have known, as in my experience <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> [REDACTED] ran a tight ship.

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<sup>4</sup> VPL.0099.0086.0001 at [0013]

<sup>5</sup> VPL.0099.0086.0001 at [0018]

<sup>6</sup> VPL.0099.0086.0001 at [0024]

<sup>7</sup> VPL.0099.0086.0001 at [0025]

**Authorisation of the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q5)**

22. I am generally familiar with the registration process for human sources, but have no specific knowledge of who was involved in the authorisation or continued authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source. From my familiarity with the registration process, I expect that <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> and Superintendent Tony Biggin of the Covert Services Division would have had some involvement.

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

23. To the best of my knowledge, I have had no personal contact with Ms Gobbo.

**Information & assistance received (Q7 & Q8)**

24. With the exception of the potential [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] of Operation Posse, which did not proceed, I am not aware of any information or assistance which Ms Gobbo provided to Victoria Police.
25. The mere fact that Ms Gobbo was being handed by the SDU suggested to me that Ms Gobbo was providing additional information or assistance to Victoria Police, but I am not aware what form, if any, that information or assistance took. I had no reason to suspect that any particular piece of information provided to Victoria Police of which I was aware was sourced from Ms Gobbo.

**Concerns raised as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source (Q9)**

26. I was seconded to the [REDACTED] between [REDACTED] 2018 and [REDACTED] 2018. In that role, I was involved in an internal enquiry into the use of a [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED] as a [REDACTED]. I cannot recall the [REDACTED] name. I recall that around the time of the enquiry, HSMU was asked whether there were additional human sources who were [REDACTED]. I cannot recall the answer to that question, save that a clerk from a law firm had provided information to Victoria Police on a single occasion. I cannot recall the name of the clerk or what the information they provided concerned. As my time with the [REDACTED] was short-lived, I do not know became of the internal enquiry.

**Concerns raised as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q10)**

27. I have no awareness of this matter.

**Awareness about disclosure in relation to Ms Gobbo (Q11)**

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28. I have no awareness of this matter.

**Other human sources with obligations of confidentiality or privilege (Q12)**

29. Save for the [REDACTED] and the clerk I mention in answer to question 9 above, I am not aware of any such human sources used by Victoria Police.

**Training (Q13)**

30. My recollection of the relevant training or retraining I have received is as follows:
- a) obligations of disclosure – I cannot recall with certainty, but think this would have been covered in one or more of Probationary Constable Training, Detective Training School, the Sergeants' Course or the Undercover Training Program;
  - b) right to silence – as above;
  - c) right of an accused person to legal practitioner – as above;
  - d) legal professional privilege – this may have been covered in the Police Academy and in Detective Training School;
  - e) public interest immunity – this is covered in the Undercover Training Program;
  - f) Professional and ethical decision-making – I think this is covered in the [REDACTED] Course, the [REDACTED] Course and the [REDACTED] Training Course.

**Other information (Q14)**

31. I have nothing further to add in response to question 14.

Dated: 2 December 2019