

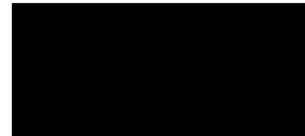
**Royal Commission  
into the Management of Police Informants**

**STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] Officer Malachite**

1. My full name is [REDACTED] **Officer Malachite**
2. Until [REDACTED], I was a [REDACTED] attached to the Undercover Unit of Victoria Police as a Controller. I am now retired.
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 will be produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

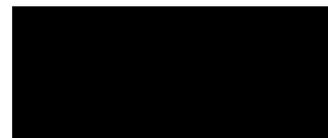
**Educational background and employment history (Q1)**

4. I graduated high school in [REDACTED]. I spent the following 12 or so months undertaking clerical and administration work until joining Victoria Police in late [REDACTED]. I remained employed with Victoria Police until my retirement in [REDACTED] after [REDACTED] years of service.
5. A summary of my progression through the ranks is as follows:
  - (a) in March [REDACTED], I graduated from the Police Academy;
  - (b) from graduation until [REDACTED], I performed uniformed and plain clothes duties at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED];
  - (c) in [REDACTED], I was promoted to Detective Senior Constable and performed duties at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I joined the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] where I remained until [REDACTED];
  - (d) between [REDACTED], I performed temporary seconded duties at a joint task force between Victoria Police, the [REDACTED];
  - (e) in [REDACTED], I was promoted to Uniformed Sergeant and between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], worked in [REDACTED] team (i.e. supervision and [REDACTED]);
  - (f) in [REDACTED], I was promoted to Detective Sergeant and re-joined the [REDACTED] where I performed supervisory investigative duties until [REDACTED];
  - (g) in [REDACTED] I was seconded to a joint operation with the [REDACTED] for approximately nine months.
  - (h) in mid [REDACTED] to the end of [REDACTED] I transferred to [REDACTED] where I predominately performed plain clothes duties at the Special Duties Unit.
  - (i) in December [REDACTED], I was seconded to the [REDACTED] where I performed supervisory investigative duties until December [REDACTED] when I transferred to the [REDACTED];
  - (j) in July [REDACTED] I transferred to the Undercover Unit as a Controller, where I remained until July [REDACTED] when I retired.



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

6. Save with the single exception I discuss below, to the best of my knowledge, I have not had any involvement or association with an investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo.
7. On 18 January 2006, I was tasked by <sup>Cruze - DSS</sup> of the Undercover Unit, with assessing Ms Gobbo in connection with a potential undercover operation as part of Operation Posse.<sup>1</sup>
8. That was the first time I learnt that Ms Gobbo was a human source for Victoria Police.
9. On 2 February 2006, I met with Ms Gobbo and her handler, <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in North Melbourne. My police diary records that the meeting went from 7.45pm to 10.35pm.<sup>2</sup>
10. For the purpose of preparing my statement, I have been told that the meeting was recorded and I have been informed that a transcript of the recording was later generated. I have not reviewed that transcript, nor listened to the recording, but I have reviewed my diary for that period, insofar as it concerns Ms Gobbo.
11. The purpose of the meeting was to assess Ms Gobbo's motivation and suitability for an undercover operation, any safety issues which might arise and to discuss, Ms Gobbo's potential role in such an operation. At that time, it was contemplated that Ms Gobbo may be in a position [REDACTED] one or more targets of Operation Posse at an [REDACTED] being planned [REDACTED]. My diary records that Ms Gobbo expressed some concerns for her safety and expressed a concern that her actions may identify her as assisting police.
12. On 27 February 2006, I attended a meeting with members of the Source Development Unit and <sup>Cruze - DSS</sup> about the potential undercover operation. My diary records that <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> Detective Senior Sergeant O'Brien, <sup>Green-O</sup> and <sup>Cruze - DSS</sup> <sup>Cruze - DSS</sup> were in attendance.<sup>3</sup> Following discussion, the outcome of the meeting was that the Undercover Unit was not going to proceed with the proposed undercover operation. I cannot now recall why the operation did not proceed, although my diary makes reference to health issues and a pending trial.
13. As I only had a single meeting with Ms Gobbo, I infer that the proposed undercover operation was in its preliminary stages when it was decided it would not proceed. To the best of my knowledge, that was the only time Ms Gobbo had any association with the Undercover Unit.



14. I am not aware of any other investigation on which I worked having any connection with Ms Gobbo. I believe I would have been aware, if that were the case.

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

15. I first learnt that Ms Gobbo was providing information to police on 18 January 2006, as I explain in paragraphs 7 and 8 above.

**Awareness of others (Q4)**

16. Save for the persons in attendance at the 27 February 2006 meeting to which I refer in paragraph 12, and <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> I am not aware of any other members of Victoria Police, or other organisations, who were aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to police.

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

17. I do not know who was involved in the authorisation or continued authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

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

18. As I explain in paragraph 9, I met Ms Gobbo in person on 2 February 2006. To the best of my knowledge, that meeting was the extent of our personal contact.

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

19. Save in respect of Ms Gobbo's potential assistance with the undercover operation which did not proceed, and whatever information Ms Gobbo provided to me and her handler during our meeting on 2 February 2006, I am not aware of any information provided or assistance given by Ms Gobbo to Victoria Police. I did not act upon any information Ms Gobbo provided to me.

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

20. I have no knowledge of these matters.

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

21. I have no knowledge of these matters.

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

22. I have no knowledge of these matters.

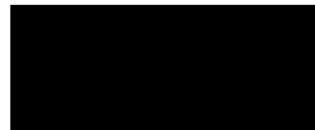
**Other human sources with obligations of confidentiality or privilege (Q12)**

23. I am not aware of any other human source subject to legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege who has provided information or assistance to Victoria Police.

**Training (Q13)**

24. During my time at Victoria Police, I undertook at least the following training courses:

- (a) Police Academy [REDACTED]
- (b) Detective Training School [REDACTED]



- (c) National Drug Law Enforcement Officers Course [REDACTED];
  - (d) Sub-Officers' Course [REDACTED];
  - (e) Close Personal Protection Course [REDACTED];
  - (f) Advanced Detective Training School [REDACTED];
  - (g) Sub Officers Advanced Skills Course [REDACTED];
  - (h) Forced Building Entry Techniques [REDACTED];
  - (i) Clandestine Laboratory Safety Certification Course [REDACTED];
  - (j) Federal Bureau Investigation Undercover Program Certification Course [REDACTED];
  - (k) National Operators Training Course – New Zealand [REDACTED];
25. Between [REDACTED] and retiring in [REDACTED] I was involved on the Directing Staff of all Victoria Police Undercover Training Courses. .
26. My recollection of the relevant training or retraining I have received is as follows:
- (a) Obligations of disclosure – I believe this was covered in the Police Academy and various other courses I undertook.
  - (b) Right to silence – as above. This was well known from day 1.
  - (c) Right of an accused person to legal practitioner – as above.
  - (d) Legal professional privilege – as above.
  - (e) Public interest immunity – as above.
  - (f) Professional and ethical decision-making – all courses I have attended.

**Other information (Q14)**

27. I have nothing further to add.

Dated: 11 December 2019

[REDACTED]  
Officer Malachite