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ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE
MANAGEMENT OF POLICE INFORMANTS

Held in Melbourne, Victoria

On Thursday, 11 April 2019

Led by Commissioner: The Honourable Margaret McMurdo AC

Also Present

Counsel Assisting: Mr C. Winneke QC
Mr A. Woods
Ms M. Tittensor

Solicitor Assisting: Mr H. Rapke
Ms A. Tighe
Ms K. Hall

Counsel for Nicola Gobbo Mr P. Collinson QC
Mr R. Nathwani

1 MR RAPKE: Good morning.
2
3 VOICE (from body of the court): Morning, is that Howard?
4
5 MR RAPKE: It is, speaking.
6
7 VOICE (from body of the court): Hi Howard. (Indistinct)
8 I'm here with a Mr [REDACTED], Peter Collinson and Rishi
9 Nathwani.
10
11 MR RAPKE: Good morning. Could I perhaps say to you who's
12 here. Commissioner McMurdo is here in the room together
13 with counsel assisting Chris Winneke, Megan Tittensor and
14 Andrew Woods, myself, my fellow partner Alex Tighe, Kylie
15 Hall and Trish Lingard plus our transcript man. So I might
16 just pass over to the Commissioner having done those
17 introductions.
18
19 VOICE (from body of the court): Sure. Let me just patch
20 in with Nicola to the call. One minute.
21
22 MR RAPKE: Of course.
23
24 VOICE (from body of the court): Hi Nicola, are you there?
25
26 MS GOBBO: Yep.
27
28 VOICE (from body of the court): Great. So you're now on
29 the call with the Commission.
30
31 COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
32
33 MS GOBBO: Can everyone hear me?
34
35 COMMISSIONER: Very clearly, thank you.
36
37 MR RAPKE: Yes, thank you.
38
39 COMMISSIONER: Commissioner McMurdo speaking, Ms Gobbo. I
40 think your lawyers are also on the phone, your solicitor
41 and barristers are also here.
42
43 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes.
44
45 COMMISSIONER: And we have our legal team here and a
46 transcriber. Now I suppose the first thing, if we could
47 ask you whether you're up-to-date with what's been

1 happening with the Commission and if there's anything you
2 want to say about what's transpired so far before the
3 Commission.
4

5 MS GOBBO: I'm only up-to-date in the sense of seeing some
6 media reports but if I'm pretty frank with you I find it
7 too distressing to read a lot of it for lots of reasons and
8 there's trust risk, I can't do anything about a lot of it,
9 particularly the media reporting, and I've really been
10 spending a bit of time trying to think of documents that
11 might be of assistance that my solicitors are working
12 through on my old laptop. It has thousands of pages that
13 would help prompt my memory about some things.
14

15 COMMISSIONER: All right then. We're just having a little
16 trouble with clarity. We can hear you quite loudly but the
17 clarity, so I don't know whether you can speak closer to
18 the microphone or further back maybe. Maybe further back
19 the transcriber suggests.
20

21 MS GOBBO: I might just turn - is that better?
22

23 MR WINNEKE: That's much better, yes.
24

25 COMMISSIONER: All right, Ms Gobbo, I'll hand over to
26 Mr Winneke now and he'll ask you some specific questions
27 which will probably, you know, help your memory a little
28 more. Yes, thanks Mr Winneke.
29

30 MR WINNEKE: Thank you. Nicola, you mentioned that you had
31 heard some media reports, we understand what you say, that
32 you find it distressing. Is there anything that you want
33 to say with respect to any of the matters that have been
34 reported by way of putting on record your views, agreement
35 or disagreement?
36

37 MS GOBBO: Well, I'm only, because I'm not a subscriber to
38 the Herald and Weekly Times I can't - you know, I can see
39 the head line. I go online but I can't read the whole
40 story.
41

42 MR WINNEKE: Right.
43

44 MS GOBBO: So I'm getting sucked into listening to reports
45 from people that are reading hard copy, if that makes
46 sense.
47

1 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

2

3 MS GOBBO: So, for example, the reporting of it, the
4 (indistinct) reporting - - -

5

6 MR WINNEKE: You're just a bit muffled. It was quite clear
7 before after you - I think you changed your position but
8 it's got muffled again.

9

10 MS GOBBO: How about now?

11

12 MR WINNEKE: It seems okay.

13

14 MS GOBBO: Better now?

15

16 MR WINNEKE: Yes, I can hear that clearly.

17

18 MS GOBBO: Okay, I won't move. You know, I'm only getting
19 second-hand accounts of what is in, for example, the Herald
20 Sun because I can't read the subscription only stories.
21 For example, the reporting of the, I think it was the
22 evidence given by Pope made it sound like he was a truthful
23 police officer and that I was a manipulative liar. I know
24 it's only one side of the story that's being reported but
25 it's not really going to help me - I keep saying to myself
26 it's not going to help me cope with the stress I've got
27 every day [REDACTED] myself, your fear and so on
28 by reading that stuff.

29

30 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

31

32 MS GOBBO: So I just keep being - I keep being frustrated
33 over and over again but saying to myself, well, the time
34 will come for someone to make a decision about what's
35 truthful and what's not and maybe some of the documents
36 that are in my computer will help, either prompt my memory
37 or point in the direction of material that will confirm my
38 version.

39

40 MR WINNEKE: Yes. In terms of the question of Pope, I mean
41 for what it's worth obviously Mr Pope denies that there was
42 a relationship or a personal relationship.

43

44 MS GOBBO: Yes.

45

46 MR WINNEKE: And a transcript of discussion between you and
47 Boris Buick and Mr Lebusque was put to him in which you

1 maintain that you had a relationship with him, a sexual
2 relationship with him. Do you maintain that you did?
3

4 MS GOBBO: Yes, and I admitted it to a number of people
5 long before, long before it kind of became an issue.
6

7 MR WINNEKE: It became an issue in about 2011, is that
8 correct, when there was a question of - - -
9

10 MS GOBBO: Yes, I think so.
11

12 MR WINNEKE: All right. And indeed was he involved in your
13 management prior to 2011?
14

15 MS GOBBO: From my knowledge I never had any idea that he
16 sat on any committee or had anything to do with, anything
17 to do with me until I read about it in the newspaper.
18

19 MR WINNEKE: And was that prior to your civil proceedings?
20

21 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes, yes. My only - I asserted that I
22 (indistinct) during the 05 to 07/08 period, I'm sure that
23 in all the notes or the recordings there would be a
24 reference to me admitting to having had what I describe as
25 a fling with Jeff Pope years earlier and nobody ever, ever
26 mentioned where he got to or what his position was or
27 everything about him until a conversation I had with
28 Detective Inspector Ian Campbell which would have been
29 about 2011, 2012, and when he became my liaison officer
30 within Victoria Police he would meet me one-on-one. So he
31 never said to me that, he never put a recording device on
32 the table and said, "I'm recording this conversation" but
33 he made it clear to me that because it was a male/female
34 meeting and he was only, he was by himself that he had to
35 record it. So I keep saying - I mean, because the
36 perception of at least what was read to me about the Pope
37 stuff is that I've made it all up and I can't imagine a
38 reason why anyone would but there has to be, there has to
39 be other material that will confirm what I'm saying.
40

41 MR WINNEKE: Are you able to flesh out the - perhaps that's
42 not the appropriate description, but to fill out some more
43 description of what occurred in terms of that relationship?
44 Where any events occurred? When, in what circumstances?
45 Can you describe those?
46

47 MS GOBBO: I'm hoping that, I'm hoping that my diary from

1 that year will, will have some kind of reference to him in
2 it. I know that - - -

3

4 MR WINNEKE: What year are you talking, for a start,
5 because - - -

6

7 MS GOBBO: I think it's 1999.

8

9 MR WINNEKE: Right. So he maintained that he saw you
10 face-to-face I think on one or two occasions alone but the
11 remainder of the time Mr Segrave was with you and there
12 were occasions, perhaps one or two, where he met you alone.
13 Now do you say that that's incorrect?

14

15 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes.

16

17 MR WINNEKE: How many times do you think you did see him
18 alone?

19

20 MS GOBBO: I have a, I have one specific recollection of
21 him coming to my home in [REDACTED]
22 which was unit [REDACTED] Now I can't off
23 the top of my head remember what year I moved there and
24 what year I sold it but that time frame would be right. I
25 know that there - - -

26

27 MR WINNEKE: So was there - sorry, I interrupted you.

28

29 MS GOBBO: Like I read his statement and what he said, he
30 makes some reference to receiving an email from me and said
31 that the email was law notes. Like that prompted my memory
32 to recall that he was talking to me or actually complaining
33 to me about the law degree that he'd started at La Trobe
34 University, that he was struggling with, I can't even
35 remember what subject it was, but I knew him well enough
36 and had a personal enough relationship with him for me to
37 offer to give him some study notes or material for some
38 reason that I'd done and I emailed them to him.

39

40 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

41

42 MS GOBBO: My old computer is with my lawyers and there
43 will be - like you probably can't get text messages now but
44 there will be emails at least, there will be phone records,
45 and there would be people, there would be others who were
46 in that sort of fraud investigators course that would have,
47 either would have known or it would have been obvious when

1 we were drinking at the Emerald Hotel.

2

3 MR WINNEKE: Okay. Now can I just ask you a couple of
4 matters about that. You say that he came to your home in

5

6

7 MS GOBBO: Yes.

8

9 MR WINNEKE: Was that around the time that we're talking
10 about, that is when he was your handler?

11

12 MS GOBBO: Yes. Unbeknownst to me that he was my handler
13 but yes.

14

15 MR WINNEKE: And he was getting information from you, it
16 appears, about Solicitor 1?

17

18 MS GOBBO: Yeah, I can't, I can't recall whether he got
19 anything at all that might have, could have been his, but
20 that's what, that's the point of it or that was the point
21 of it.

22

23 MR WINNEKE: Yes. You understand that that's what his
24 notes suggest, that he was seeing you and was receiving - -

25

26

27 MS GOBBO: For that reason only.

28

29 MR WINNEKE: Yes. Firstly - - -

30

31 MS GOBBO: I mean where he says in his - I did also read in
32 his statement where he says we had this what I call a - the
33 recollection that he's got apparently or it looks like he
34 doesn't have any notes of, I call it the coffee
35 conversation where he says I bumped into him and we end up
36 at the Metropolitan Hotel and we have a cup of coffee. I
37 don't have an independent recollection of that happening
38 but it's not to say that it didn't happen.

39

40 MR WINNEKE: All right.

41

42 MS GOBBO: But the content of the conversation, he's
43 obviously got a better memory than me because he can
44 remember precisely what I said, but his version of what he
45 claims I said is absolutely ridiculous.

46

47 MR WINNEKE: Right. Now can I just ask you a couple of

1 questions about that.

2

3 MS GOBBO: Yes.

4

5 MR WINNEKE: And I don't want to dwell on it but it's
6 become an issue because he denies it but the relationship,
7 you say, was on and off for a number of months.

8

9 MS GOBBO: Yep.

10

11 MR WINNEKE: When did the first sexual event occur insofar
12 as, for example, the meeting at the Emerald Hotel? If we
13 use that as a reference point, firstly, was that when you
14 first met him?

15

16 MS GOBBO: No, I met him on, I'm sure that I met him, I
17 either met him either at the fraud investigators' course as
18 in he was there. I think he was at the Fraud Squad and I
19 think he may have attended as a guest lecturer or some, in
20 some kind of fashion.

21

22 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

23

24 MS GOBBO: And - - -

25

26 MR WINNEKE: Can I just stop you there, Nicola, because
27 we've got information which suggests that you did do a
28 fraud investigation course.

29

30 MS GOBBO: Yes.

31

32 MR WINNEKE: But it appears that that course wasn't done
33 until 2001, so we're talking some time after you were first
34 - well at least it appears that you were first introduced
35 to him.

36

37 MS GOBBO: Now (indistinct) before you said that I was just
38 going to say I have, he either - I don't think he was doing
39 the course, I think he came as a guest lecturer.

40

41 MR WINNEKE: Right.

42

43 MS GOBBO: Because he was attached to the Fraud Squad.

44

45 MR WINNEKE: What I'm saying is that occurred in, it
46 appears from La Trobe that you did that course in 2001.
47 You did a fraud investigator major.

1

2 MS GOBBO: Yes.

3

4 MR WINNEKE: You did forensic accounting in criminology,
5 fraud prevention and detection, fraud investigation.

6

7 MS GOBBO: Yep.

8

9 MR WINNEKE: And legal framework, but those subjects were
10 conducted, were studied rather, in 2001. Now, what do you
11 say about that?

12

13 MS GOBBO: Well it may be that on - doing the best I can to
14 actually put it into a time frame - - -

15

16 MR WINNEKE: Yes, I understand.

17

18 MS GOBBO: - - - it may be, and I was going to say before
19 that I know he was the informant for someone I acted for
20 because when I met him he was at the Fraud Squad. Now my -
21 I mean I'm obviously mistaken that I thought he was at the
22 Fraud Squad when I did that fraud course.

23

24 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

25

26 MS GOBBO: But he may, I'm sure he was at the Fraud Squad
27 but I must have met him earlier. But I can tell you there
28 would have to be a note in my diary, as in like a pocket
29 diary, and I mean to be embarrassingly truthful, I would
30 have put some note in there if it was someone I'd slept
31 with. So there would be some - like it wouldn't
32 necessarily say, "Jeff Pope tonight" or something but there
33 would be something in there.

34

35 MR WINNEKE: Right. I mean what would the note say?

36

37 MS GOBBO: It might just say, it might have said, "Drinks
38 with" or it might have been - I mean I might have just
39 written his name down. I would have - it was always my, I
40 wouldn't say my practice, but I would keep track of when,
41 if I did, sleep with someone purely from the point of view
42 of keeping track of birth control.

43

44 MR WINNEKE: Without wanting to dwell on this, are you able
45 to describe the circumstances in which you first did sleep
46 with him?

47

1 MS GOBBO: Um, not off the top of my head. I mean it's - I
2 don't, I don't have - I can remember, I can specifically
3 remember meeting with him in [REDACTED] at my
4 apartment there once, but I can't, I can't remember the
5 dates of it or how it came about. I know that I was in
6 frequent mobile phone contact with him.

7

8 MR WINNEKE: Yes. Do you recall having a drink with him
9 and Wayne Strawhorn at the Emerald Hotel and Segrave?

10

11 MS GOBBO: Not specifically.

12

13 MR WINNEKE: Do you recall Mr Segrave?

14

15 MS GOBBO: No, not at all.

16

17 MR WINNEKE: Do you remember meeting with Pope and another
18 police officer at Armadale, for example?

19

20 MS GOBBO: No, I read that, I did read that in the
21 statement. I can't recall at all ever going to Armadale
22 with, with any police.

23

24 MR WINNEKE: Do you recall speaking to Mr Pope about **Solicitor 1**
25 ?

26

27 MS GOBBO: Not, not specifically, no.

28

29 MR WINNEKE: Do you believe you did provide information to
30 Mr Pope about **Solicitor 1**?

31

32 MS GOBBO: I don't have, I don't actually have a specific
33 memory of any conversation with him about him, or anything
34 else for that matter, but I do, I do recall **Solicitor 1** being a
35 topic that he and Wayne Strawhorn were interested in.

36

37 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

38

39 MS GOBBO: Because they had, if my, as far as my memory
40 goes, I'm sure that Wayne Strawhorn was coming at it from
41 the money laundering/Drug Squad point of view in that he
42 believed that **Solicitor 1**'s clients were paying him in cash and
43 that **Solicitor 1** was cleaning money for, not as in being simply
44 paid in cash and not declaring it, but as in he was
45 cleaning their funds, you know, in a systematic mail
46 ordering scheme.

47

1 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

2

3 MS GOBBO: And Pope was, my best recollection is that he
4 was there because he came from the Fraud Squad and was
5 doing the, I think it might have been the beginning of the
6 Confiscation Act or whatever it was called at the time.

7

8 MR WINNEKE: Yes. Was he at the Asset Recovery Squad, is
9 that your recollection?

10

11 MS GOBBO: Yes.

12

13 MR WINNEKE: That is Pope?

14

15 MS GOBBO: Yes. Sorry, that's the - yes. I think that's
16 what it was called, that's what it was called before it
17 became the confiscation, that Pope had described, section.

18

19 MR WINNEKE: It appears that your introduction to Pope
20 occurred in the context of you acting for people who Wayne
21 Strawhorn's unit had charged with a number of offences
22 arising out of Operation [REDACTED]. Do you recall Operation
23 [REDACTED]?

24

25 MS GOBBO: This is what you asked me about, this is [REDACTED]
26 [REDACTED] and - - -

27

28 MR WINNEKE: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

29

30 MS GOBBO: Yes.

31

32 MR WINNEKE: Now, do you remember that operation and the
33 charges that arose out of that operation? Bear in mind it
34 appears that they were arrested in the latter part of 199[REDACTED]
35 when you were employed by Solicitor 1.

36

37 MS GOBBO: Yes.

38

39 MR WINNEKE: And do you understand that those [REDACTED] people
40 were represented by Solicitor 1?

41

42 MS GOBBO: Yes, I do, yep.

43

44 MR WINNEKE: And which of those people do you recall having
45 professional interactions with? So, firstly, [REDACTED]?

46

47

1 MS GOBBO: All of them.

2

3 MR WINNEKE: All of them.

4

5 MS GOBBO: All of them. Yes, all of them.

6

7 MR WINNEKE: Right. And in relation ██████████ - - -

8

9 MS GOBBO: But my longest - sorry, my longest standing
10 contact with any of them was ██████████ because he, yep,
11 because he took - he was the last one to get - that's
12 right, he got bail, I think it took, my best recollection
13 is it took, he took the longest to get bail and then once
14 he did he ██████████

15

16 MR WINNEKE: Right. Now, Wayne Strawhorn wasn't the
17 informant in that case but did he have an involvement in
18 that operation, Operation ██████████ to your understanding?

19

20 MS GOBBO: Yes, I believe he did because that was at a time
21 when, for want of a better way to put it, Wayne Strawhorn
22 was like, he was like the boogie man so far as crooks were
23 concerned, as in their belief was that if Wayne Strawhorn
24 was after you, that he was like a dog after a bone. He
25 would keep at you and at you and he - my belief was that he
26 was, I think ██████████ Kruger was the informant and that he
27 was, he was his boss.

28

29 MR WINNEKE: Yes. So ██████████ Kruger it appears was the
30 informant for ██████████, ██████████ and ██████████. Does that
31 accord with your recollection?

32

33 MS GOBBO: No, I don't have a specific memory of who was
34 ██████████'s informant but it wouldn't surprise me if it
35 was someone else.

36

37 MR WINNEKE: Yes. What about ██████████, does that ring a
38 bell?

39

40 MS GOBBO: Yes, yep. Now you say the name, yes.

41

42 MR WINNEKE: Okay. Are you able to say when you first were
43 introduced to Wayne Strawhorn in relation to Operation
44 ██████████ Did you meet him before or after being introduced
45 to the informant ██████████ Kruger? In other words, did you
46 meet Strawhorn through Kruger, or was it the other way
47 around?

1
2 MS GOBBO: I'm not, I'm just, I don't want to guess. I'm
3 not sure.
4
5 MR WINNEKE: Okay.
6
7 MS GOBBO: I'm trying to think of when I, of who I met
8 first out of the accused. I'm not sure of that either.
9 No, I'm not sure. I imagine that I would have met the
10 informant at court for the first time.
11
12 MR WINNEKE: Yes.
13
14 MS GOBBO: And my, I know that Wayne Strawhorn did attend.
15 He was physically present at court hearings for those
16 accused.
17
18 MR WINNEKE: Do you have a recollection of meeting him
19 prior to those matters in Operation [REDACTED] So bear in
20 mind you start with Solicitor 1 in about April I think of 1997.
21 This operation ends in the arrest I think in about [REDACTED]
22 of 9. Had you met Strawhorn before that?
23
24 MS GOBBO: I don't think so. No, I don't think so.
25
26 MR WINNEKE: So the likelihood is that this operation is in
27 effect your introduction to the Drug Squad, would that be
28 fair to say or do you think you'd come across members of
29 the Drug Squad before then?
30
31 MS GOBBO: I don't know, I may have. I know that when I
32 first started working for Solicitor 1, when I would be ringing
33 people, police such as the Drug Squad.
34
35 MR WINNEKE: Yes.
36
37 MS GOBBO: A lot of the time I would be, for whatever
38 reason I was ringing I would be met with the same response
39 over and over again which was, "We don't want to speak to
40 his secretary, we want to speak to - get Solicitor 1 to
41 ring us".
42
43 MR WINNEKE: Right.
44
45 MS GOBBO: And it was kind of a bit of a joke in the office
46 that the assumption was that I was the secretary and not,
47 and didn't have the capacity to ask anything or do

1 anything, but just going back to your earlier question, the
2 person I had initially the most contact with out of those
3 accused was [REDACTED] because he knows, if my memory
4 is right he stayed in custody and pleaded guilty
5 (indistinct).

6
7 MR WINNEKE: Yes. So he was in custody and ultimately
8 pleaded guilty it appears around - well at least he was
9 sentenced on [REDACTED] 98 by [REDACTED].

10
11 MS GOBBO: Yes.

12
13 MR WINNEKE: [REDACTED] appeared for him.

14
15 MS GOBBO: Yes.

16
17 MR WINNEKE: Is that right?

18
19 MS GOBBO: Yes, I was, I did my - I read with [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]

21
22 MR WINNEKE: You read with [REDACTED] and that would have been
23 during the period from about September to November of 98.
24

25 MS GOBBO: Yes. And I did - my sole role in relation to
26 each of those accused was to do all the filings and prepare
27 the plea material for those that pleaded. [REDACTED]
28 became a, became a nightmare for want of a better
29 expression.

30
31 MR WINNEKE: In what way?

32
33 MS GOBBO: Not because - only because he's not, he's a
34 very, very shrewd clever criminal but not particularly
35 bright.

36
37 MR WINNEKE: Right.

38
39 MS GOBBO: And he was adamant that he wanted to run a trial
40 and that he would be found not guilty and I recall **Solicitor 1**
41 being incredibly frustrated with him because he wouldn't
42 listen to common sense and I think ultimately he did run a
43 trial and I think I ended up appearing for him, it might
44 have been with [REDACTED] - - -

45
46 MR WINNEKE: Yes, you're right. It appears that you were
47 junior to [REDACTED]. Can I ask you this: [REDACTED]

1 suggests or at least has suggested in a submission that you
2 were encouraging him to, in effect, provide evidence or
3 roll over on [REDACTED] and assist the police and if he did
4 so he might walk out of gaol. Do you recall ever saying
5 that to [REDACTED]

6
7 MS GOBBO: No. I wouldn't - no, no, and I'd be surprised
8 if - I mean this is at a time when I'm really finding my
9 feet, I guess, is the best way to put it, and I wouldn't, I
10 wasn't doing - I didn't have the initiative or experience
11 or knowledge to be doing anything that either Solicitor 1 or one
12 or other of the barristers that I was dealing with hadn't
13 either directly asked me to do or asked me to cover with
14 any of those accused.

15
16 MR WINNEKE: Right. Do you recall ever discussing with a
17 barrister that Mr [REDACTED] might well get some sort of a
18 benefit if he pleaded guilty and assisted police with
19 respect to others?

20
21 MS GOBBO: It may have - I mean I wouldn't be surprised if
22 it was on a, as in a general kind of initial conversation
23 or conference where it's been a topic along the lines of,
24 "These are all of your options and these are all of the
25 potential mitigating factors", but not as a specific, not
26 if it meant putting pressure on him or telling him that's
27 what he should do.

28
29 MR WINNEKE: Yes, I follow that. Can I just go back. So
30 bear in mind these fellows are arrested in [REDACTED] 9.

31
32 MS GOBBO: Yep.

33
34 MR WINNEKE: You'd been working for Solicitor 1 since about April
35 of 97. Now by July of 1998 there appears to be evidence,
36 well there is evidence that you had a discussion with [REDACTED]
37 Kruger in which he gets the impression that you've got
38 information about Solicitor 1 to the effect that he may
39 be laundering money. Now, what do you say about that, in
40 about July of 98, that that was a conversation which
41 occurred?

42
43 MS GOBBO: I know that, I do recall that there was, there
44 was one matter that concerned me during that time and it
45 was, it's relevant to [REDACTED], which was the misuse
46 of Legal Aid funding where what Solicitor 1 was doing [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1

2 MS GOBBO: Yes. Yes, correct, yes.

3

4 MR WINNEKE: The evidence suggests that you did speak
5 initially to [REDACTED] Kruger and another person by the name of
6 Lim, Chris Lim. Do you remember speaking to him?

7

8 MS GOBBO: No, I think I read that in, I might have read
9 that in Pope's, one of the Pope statements, but I don't
10 have a specific recollection of meeting Lim.

11

12 MR WINNEKE: If that is the case that you are telling them
13 about Solicitor 1 and [REDACTED]'s involvement in money
14 laundering and/or using property titles, how did that come
15 about, do you recall?

16

17 MS GOBBO: I don't, I don't - I didn't know, I didn't know
18 what [REDACTED]'s specific financial position was but I did
19 know that he was a [REDACTED] and I know, I can
20 recall the police or, sorry, [REDACTED] Kruger, being - it
21 wasn't him saying to me, "Do you have any, you know, can
22 you tell us anything?" His view was, his belief was that
23 [REDACTED] was using his position as a [REDACTED] with
24 [REDACTED] to launder other criminal's money and
25 that he was using, somehow using Solicitor 1 for that purpose.

26

27 MR WINNEKE: Yes, I follow that, but I'm just wondering how
28 it came to be that you decided to tell the police about
29 this in circumstances where you were employed by Solicitor 1
30 and acting for clients in relation to at least one of whom
31 you were telling the police about. Do you follow what I'm
32 saying?

33

34 MS GOBBO: Yes, look I can remember being pressured by, by
35 both [REDACTED] - I particularly have a recollection of Wayne
36 Strawhorn pressuring me about that.

37

38 MR WINNEKE: You mentioned last time that Solicitor 1, that Solicitor 1
39 sent a text, sorry, sent an email - - -

40

41 MS GOBBO: No, it was a fax, a fax.

42

43 MR WINNEKE: A fax, yes.

44

45 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes.

46

47 MR WINNEKE: Right. Do you recall when that was?

1

2 MS GOBBO: No, not specifically but I do recall him
3 sending, typing a fairly carefully worded letter basically
4 saying, "Leave her alone and stop trying to speak to her
5 about me and about our clients". I think he might have - -

6

7

8 MR WINNEKE: Do you recall what it was that led **Solicitor 1** to
9 send that fax? What did you say to him?

10

11

12 MS GOBBO: Me, me telling him. Me saying that Wayne
13 Strawhorn and Kruger had been pressuring me to provide them
14 with information.

14

15

16 MR WINNEKE: Right. Well at least on the evidence that's
17 available it appears that you did provide information. Do
18 you agree - - -

18

19

20 MS GOBBO: I think I read, yeah, I think I read in, there
21 was a suggestion of that. Whether I provided what I assume
22 was a floppy disk back in those days of material or, sorry,
23 of some, some account of information. I don't have a
24 memory of doing that but I wouldn't, I wouldn't dispute it
25 being suggested if I did.

25

26

27 MR WINNEKE: Do you agree, just on that, that in about 99
28 you provided a floppy disk of information to Jeff Pope?

28

29

30 MS GOBBO: Now I read that and I'm not in a position to
31 dispute it but I can't recall - I haven't got a
32 recollection of him doing it or of what, if anything, was
33 on there. I do recall saying, I do recall saying to either
34 - I don't remember who, it could have been him or Kruger or
35 Strawhorn, that the way in which **Solicitor 1**'s office was set up
36 was not in a way which even if I, even if I wanted to I
37 could have gotten information that they were seeking
38 because I didn't know how his financial structure was set
39 up and in terms of passwords, computers. Sure I had
40 physical access to materials, but he had, he had accounts
41 people and bookkeepers and I didn't have a clue about any
42 of that work other than documents.

42

43

44 MR WINNEKE: I follow that. It appears though that you
45 came across this floppy disk in 99. Now at that stage
46 you'd long since been at the Bar. How did you get access
47 to that?

47

1 MS GOBBO: I don't - I couldn't have in 99. I couldn't
2 have - that's what I'm saying, I can, I could have, I could
3 have copied material from a computer in his office at the
4 time I was there but after, after I went to the Bar, I
5 didn't have, I wasn't in his office to even be able to do
6 that, so it can't be said - - -

7

8 MR WINNEKE: If you didn't have access to the disk in 99,
9 it would have been not because you obtained it from
10 Solicitor 1's office but because you had retained information
11 since you had been employed there, or from the time that
12 you'd been employed?

13

14 MS GOBBO: Either that, either that or I did it at a time
15 when I was there, not in 99.

16

17 MR WINNEKE: I mean did you take floppy disks away when you
18 left from, left employment with Solicitor 1?

19

20 MS GOBBO: No. No, I had various precedents that, if you
21 like by way of example (indistinct) application or those
22 pro forma documents but nothing that, absolutely nothing
23 that was of a, of a nature that I shouldn't have had.

24

25 MR WINNEKE: All right. Now, you read with [REDACTED]
26 from about September through to November of 98, is that
27 right?

28

29 MS GOBBO: Yes.

30

31 MR WINNEKE: And there's evidence which suggests that
32 shortly after completing the reader's course, and I assume
33 signing the Bar roll, you went to [REDACTED] with Wayne
34 Strawhorn and [REDACTED]. Do you recall that?

35

36 MS GOBBO: Yes.

37

38 MR WINNEKE: Was it Wayne Strawhorn and [REDACTED] or were there
39 others as well? This is on 16 December 98?

40

41 MS GOBBO: My recollection is it was only Wayne and [REDACTED]

42

43 MR WINNEKE: Can you recall why it was that you went?

44

45 MS GOBBO: So I think, again, I don't, I don't want to
46 sound in any way vague but without, without having had the
47 opportunity to look at any of the notes that I would have,

1 that I did keep in the early days of being a barrister.

2

3 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

4

5 MS GOBBO: There were some operation - sorry, some
6 investigation that [REDACTED] was involved in in Melbourne
7 supervised by Wayne Strawhorn that had a connection to
8 [REDACTED] and I - - -

9

10 MR WINNEKE: Do you know what that investigation was about?

11

12 MS GOBBO: Not specifically. I don't specifically recall,
13 only that it was a drug operation, and the, there was some
14 - it was in the context of [REDACTED] was being told by Wayne
15 Strawhorn that he was not permitted to divulge details of
16 what he was doing, who he was meeting, that kind of thing,
17 presumably, although [REDACTED] didn't use the words operational
18 reasons, but that would have been, that was my
19 understanding of it.

20

21 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

22

23 MS GOBBO: But [REDACTED] was doing what a lot of people do,
24 which he was telling me detail, the kind of things that
25 Wayne was getting him to do in the sense that he was
26 questioning whether some things were right or wrong and a
27 number of times he was, he was kind of shocked at the
28 amount, at the amount of money that Wayne Strawhorn seemed
29 to have access to, the amount of freedom that he gave
30 [REDACTED] as in things like - - -

31

32 MR WINNEKE: Can I just stop you there. Sorry to interrupt
33 you. I want to focus if I can on how it was that [REDACTED]
34 started to speak directly and personally with Wayne
35 Strawhorn. In other words, how did it come about that he
36 started providing information and being registered as an
37 informer, right? So I want to go back to that point in
38 time. It appears that [REDACTED] underwent a committal in about
39 [REDACTED] of 98. Do you recall that?

40

41 MS GOBBO: Not, not specifically but that, that would be
42 right, in timing that would be right.

43

44 MR WINNEKE: Do you know acted for and who appeared for him
45 at the committal?

46

47 MS GOBBO: Not off the top of my head, no.

1

2

MR WINNEKE: But subsequent to the committal he decided to
3 plead guilty and that was either at or shortly after the
4 committal. Do you recall that?

5

6 MS GOBBO: No, not, not specifically. No. And again -

7 sorry, but without - in my first probably, at least the

8 first three or four years at the Bar I did keep a court

9

book so there would be, there would be notes in there that

10

would, I would be able to sound less vague or - - -

11

12

MR WINNEKE: I follow that.

13

14

MS GOBBO: I'd be able to better answer these
15 questions.

16

17

MR WINNEKE: Is that diary with your lawyers, do you
18 believe?

19

20

MS GOBBO: Yes.

21

22

MR WINNEKE: This will be 97, 98.

23

24

MS GOBBO: I believe they're - yes.

25

26

MR WINNEKE: And you would have kept a diary - sorry, I'm
27 speaking over you. Go on.

28

29

MS GOBBO: You know those red and black A3 size books?

30

31

MR WINNEKE: Yes.

32

33

MS GOBBO: They have got, they have got them and I've been,
34 I've recently been supplied with a kind of index with a,
35 all of the stuff [REDACTED] and my, my
36 suggestion is that it's - rather than them trying to work
37 out what pages might be relevant to what, to get me to go
38 through it all and put sticky notes on the pages that you
39 should, that the Commission should have access to.

40

41

MR WINNEKE: What I'd like you to think carefully about is
42 how [REDACTED] became an informer. Now it appears that he was
43 registered somewhere around [REDACTED] 98 by Strawhorn. Do
44 you have any knowledge about how he came to be so
45 registered?

46

47

MS GOBBO: Not, not off the top of my head, no.

1

MR WINNEKE: Bear in mind that it was only shortly after that that you went to [REDACTED] with him.

4

MS GOBBO: I don't know. Again, without looking at any material, he may have been talking to Wayne Strawhorn before the committal. I don't know. Like I have no recollection of who appeared at the committal for him or what, whether I was instructing someone or doing the, doing the preparation for it.

11

MR WINNEKE: You were certainly representing him after you came to the Bar, and you signed the Bar roll on 1 November, and you were certainly representing him at that stage because you were discussing him with Wayne Strawhorn and taking him [REDACTED] with Wayne Strawhorn. Do you agree with that?

18

MS GOBBO: Yes, because at one stage, at some point he changed, he had a disagreement with Solicitor 1 and he changed solicitors to [REDACTED] who went out on her own from [REDACTED].

22

MR WINNEKE: So do you believe that Solicitor 1 was representing him at committal or was [REDACTED] representing him at committal?

27

MS GOBBO: I can't, I can't recall, sorry.

29

MR WINNEKE: Okay, all right. When you went to [REDACTED] did you appear for [REDACTED] before, at a [REDACTED] hearing?

32

MS GOBBO: I can recall sitting in a meeting room with, meeting [REDACTED] - I can't remember his first name, [REDACTED] whatever his position was.

36

MR WINNEKE: Yes, [REDACTED].

38

MS GOBBO: Yes, sorry, [REDACTED] beg your pardon. But I don't, I don't have a specific recollection of being there in a [REDACTED] hearing.

42

MR WINNEKE: Right. Was that the only time you went to [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]

45

MS GOBBO: Yes. [REDACTED]

47

1 MR WINNEKE: Did you ever meet Mr [REDACTED] on another
2 occasion?

3
4 MS GOBBO: Not, not that I can recall.

5
6 MR WINNEKE: All right. You don't recall meeting him in
7 Melbourne around early December?

8
9 MS GOBBO: Not, not specifically, no. I know that there
10 was, I know that there was a conversation with, I had a
11 conversation with [REDACTED] about whether when the time came
12 for his plea, whether [REDACTED] would give evidence for him or
13 would provide a letter of comfort as it was known in those
14 days.

15
16 MR WINNEKE: Yes. Did you ever take any steps to see
17 whether [REDACTED] would be able to provide that letter of
18 comfort?

19
20 MS GOBBO: Again, sorry for sounding vague but I don't have
21 a - I don't want to guess and I don't, I can't say
22 specifically. My note-taking and, you know, records of
23 making phone calls was pretty good - not good, but I was
24 pretty regular about doing that in a court book in those
25 years, so there will be - my belief is there will be some
26 notes that will help my memory.

27
28 MR WINNEKE: All right. Now, do you recall speaking to an
29 NCA officer by the name of Karen Hynam at about that time
30 or thereabouts in 98, 99?

31
32 MS GOBBO: Again, not specifically but I think I read her
33 name somewhere in Pope's statement, or you might have asked
34 me that, about her.

35
36 MR WINNEKE: Yes. It appears - there's evidence that
37 suggests that you did go to the NCA and tell them that you
38 had information to give about **Solicitor 1**. Now do you
39 recall that?

40
41 MS GOBBO: Not, not going to the NCA.

42
43 MR WINNEKE: Or contacting them?

44
45 MS GOBBO: No. I thought, I thought I met, I thought I met
46 her via Wayne Strawhorn.

47

1 MR WINNEKE: Right. When do you think that was?

2

3 MS GOBBO: I can recall conversations with Wayne Strawhorn
4 at the - his favourite place was in Clarendon Street, South
5 Melbourne, at a coffee shop.

6

7 MR WINNEKE: A coffee shop in Clarendon Street?

8

9 MS GOBBO: Yes, the name escapes me but that was his, that
10 was his preferred choice of meeting place.

11

12 MR WINNEKE: Right. So how many occasions do you think you
13 met with Strawhorn there at the coffee shop?

14

15 MS GOBBO: At least, at least three or four.

16

17 MR WINNEKE: If we take as a point of reference going to
18 [REDACTED] shortly after you came to the Bar, would that have
19 been before that or after that?

20

21 MS GOBBO: Could be either/or, sorry.

22

23 MR WINNEKE: What were the reasons or what was the reason
24 for meeting with Wayne Strawhorn at the coffee shop?

25

26 MS GOBBO: Well primarily because - as time went on, as in
27 [REDACTED] was doing whatever Wayne Strawhorn was asking him to
28 do, [REDACTED] would come back to me and be saying - for
29 example, I can recall [REDACTED] came back to me saying, "Is it
30 okay if I - can I get into trouble for having sex with a
31 female undercover police officer? Is this kind of stuff
32 allowed?" And me, I didn't - I literally didn't know the
33 answer to that but me saying, "Well, if you've been asked
34 to do things by Wayne Strawhorn, so long as you do what
35 you're told to do and don't commit a crime, he says he will
36 stick to his end of the bargain which is to tell a court,
37 when you plead, that you've been of assistance to him" and
38 - so it would have been me speaking to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
39 saying, "Can you check with Wayne Strawhorn as to A, B or
40 C?"

41

42 MR WINNEKE: Yes. After the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] did you meet
43 with Wayne Strawhorn and [REDACTED]?

44

45 MS GOBBO: Yes.

46

47 MR WINNEKE: On each occasion that you met with Wayne

1 Strawhorn was [REDACTED] present or did you meet him on
2 occasions without [REDACTED]?

3

4 MS GOBBO: The latter.

5

6 MR WINNEKE: So there were a number of occasions you met
7 him without [REDACTED]?

8

9 MS GOBBO: Yes.

10

11 MR WINNEKE: Was that in relation to matters other than
12 [REDACTED] matter?

13

14 MS GOBBO: Not - I can't specifically recall but Wayne
15 Strawhorn was, he was a very intimidating and powerful
16 police officer. My belief at the time was that he had a
17 huge amount of power and knowledge and that at least
18 insofar as the matters where I had seen him agree to
19 provide a letter of comfort for an accused, he had, he had
20 come across as a police officer who kept, kept his promise.
21 Because there was nothing in writing in those days, it was
22 literally his promise and he would do the right thing.

23

24 MR WINNEKE: So in other words if you're acting for a
25 person and Wayne Strawhorn agrees to provide a letter of
26 comfort, then your client's going to get a very great
27 benefit, I assume?

28

29 MS GOBBO: Correct. But as to what, as to exactly what the
30 accused was doing or not doing for Wayne Strawhorn, I was
31 never, not me specifically, but I don't think anyone ever
32 really knew because Wayne had this, the way he approached
33 things was, "You don't need to know the detail, all you
34 need to know is that" - for example, "On a scale of one to
35 ten, ten being the highest you could get to, he's one of
36 the most, one of the best informers I found", or comments
37 like that.

38

39 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

40

41 MS GOBBO: Because ultimately he was, I can remember him
42 being very, extremely pleased with whatever [REDACTED] had
43 achieved towards the end of, at the end of him being, doing
44 task activities, as opposed to just gathering intelligence.

45

46 MR WINNEKE: All right. Do you agree that [REDACTED] continued
47 to provide assistance to Strawhorn throughout 1998 to about

1 2000, would that be in accord with your recollection?

2

3 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes.

4

5 MR WINNEKE: And would you have had discussions with
6 Strawhorn about that information or about what [REDACTED] was
7 doing throughout that period, that is from - - -

8

9 MS GOBBO: Yes.

10

11 MR WINNEKE: - - - 98 through to, towards the latter stages
12 of 2000?

13

14 MS GOBBO: Yes.

15

16 MR WINNEKE: You mentioned that it wasn't always, you
17 didn't always see him with [REDACTED] but did you have meetings
18 with Strawhorn which concerned persons other than [REDACTED]?

19

20 MS GOBBO: Well, yeah, sorry, I got off the track before.
21 Wayne Strawhorn was, whether it was right or wrong my
22 perception of him was that he had, he had a bit of
23 knowledge about everything that was going on with most drug
24 dealers in Melbourne.

25

26 MR WINNEKE: Right.

27

28 MS GOBBO: So it wasn't - I mean I guess hindsight is a
29 wonderful thing but I didn't know then what I know now,
30 which is that the way he would, like I assume the way he
31 was speaking to me was more for him obtaining bits of
32 information from me without me realising that that's in
33 fact what he was doing.

34

35 MR WINNEKE: Yes, I follow.

36

37 MS GOBBO: And he would give you the impression that he -
38 you know, without overtly saying, "We are investigating
39 this person or that person" he would give you the
40 impression that he was, as a police officer, aware of all
41 kinds of, all kinds of drug dealers going about their
42 business and he would - I mean, for example, I can't, I
43 can't specifically remember Wayne Strawhorn waving the
44 topic of John Higgs, but I know that, I do know that he
45 did, I just can't recall specifically when. But Higgs was
46 someone that was, he'd had a very big interest in.

47

1 MR WINNEKE: Are you able to recall how generally it would
2 come about that you'd end up in this café down in Clarendon
3 Street? Would he give you a call and say, "Look, can I
4 have a chat with you", something along those lines?

5
6 MS GOBBO: Yes.

7
8 MR WINNEKE: Would you have kept a note of those calls and
9 the meetings in your diary?

10
11 MS GOBBO: Yes, most likely I would have, or there would be
12 some note that I made afterwards in one of those black and
13 red A4 books.

14
15 MR WINNEKE: And the meetings would occur during work hours
16 or would they be after hours?

17
18 MS GOBBO: With Wayne Strawhorn I never, I never had, by
19 himself I never had any, I don't recall ever having a
20 night-time meeting with him or alcohol, it was coffee, so
21 I'm pretty sure they were daytime.

22
23 MR WINNEKE: Was it with Wayne Strawhorn alone or would
24 there have been other people present?

25
26 MS GOBBO: I can't recall other people being there but I,
27 there may have been but I - I've definitely got, I can
28 definitely remember a couple of occasions sitting in -
29 sorry, I'm just trying to think of the name of that place.
30 Was it the Blue Train? It was called - I think it was
31 called the Blue Train or the Groove Train, something like
32 that.

33
34 MR WINNEKE: Yes, that's right.

35
36 MS GOBBO: Yes. And there was another, that was one and
37 there was another coffee shop across, directly across the
38 road, because it - ironically years later it turned out to
39 be Rob Karam's favourite coffee place and I can remember it
40 struck me as ironic that it was a police fort as much as a
41 drug dealer's fort.

42
43 MR WINNEKE: Doing the best you can - now we understand
44 that the Drug Squad was ultimately disbanded somewhere
45 around December of 2001 I believe. Did those meetings that
46 you had with him continue until that time?

47

1 MS GOBBO: I believe - I think they did because, because
2 [REDACTED] was still, my understanding is that [REDACTED] was still
3 actively doing things that Wayne Strawhorn wanted him to
4 do.

5
6 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

7
8 MS GOBBO: Up until, up until the time that the, it became
9 public, I guess that it became public knowledge that there
10 was an investigation into the Drug Squad.

11
12 MR WINNEKE: Yes. Now, you mentioned that you wouldn't
13 necessarily be meeting Wayne about [REDACTED] and there
14 might well be other matters that Wayne was interested in.
15 With the benefit of hindsight do you believe that in effect
16 what Strawhorn was doing was pumping you for information?

17
18 MS GOBBO: Yes, that's why, that's why I said it. You
19 know, I've said a lot of talking to my psychologist about
20 this topic of my, as in why I found myself in a position
21 of, I'm thinking of the early days it would have been
22 partly naivety and being green about many of the way drug
23 dealers work and police, but as time went on a desire to
24 please them and to, to - please them is not probably the
25 best way to put it. I didn't, put it this way I wouldn't,
26 I can see now that I would have been, I would have been
27 used to acquire all kinds of information without me
28 necessarily appreciating that that's what was occurring,
29 but at the time - - -

30
31 MR WINNEKE: I assume you were acting - sorry, Nicola, I
32 assume you were acting for - - -

33
34 MS GOBBO: That's all right.

35
36 MR WINNEKE: - - - people who had been charged by other
37 members of the Drug Squad throughout this period, that is
38 from 99 throughout 2000, 2001, that would be correct, would
39 it?

40
41 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes. Yes, that would be, yes.

42
43 MR WINNEKE: And do you think that you might have been
44 asked questions about some of those claims?

45
46 MS GOBBO: Yes, and what I'm trying to say, although not
47 very well, is that I wouldn't have, you know, I wouldn't

1 have appreciated the nuances about what I was being asked.
2 I might have regarded it as just, either just as a bit of
3 chitchat, but knowing what I now know now, I may well have
4 been, unbeknownst to me, putting the last piece of a jigsaw
5 puzzle together for an investigator or showing them things
6 that, like, they were fishing for but I didn't realise at
7 the time that they were. And as pathetic as that sounds
8 for me to admit it to you or to myself, I think that's, I
9 think that's the best way to put it in the context of Wayne
10 Strawhorn being - I mean I know it might sound a strange
11 way to describe him, but he was this all powerful, feared
12 Drug Squad Detective that even the hardened drug dealers in
13 that era - - -

14
15 MR WINNEKE: He was a pretty intriguing character, wasn't
16 he?

17
18 MS GOBBO: Yeah, he was, but they believed that he had a
19 huge amount of power and a huge amount of say as in if, you
20 know, if you got him to come to court for you, well, you
21 know, you were home free, but that he was pretty ruthless
22 and - - -

23
24 MR WINNEKE: Can I ask you this - - -

25
26 MS GOBBO: Back then, you know, I didn't know - sorry, yes,
27 I'm sorry.

28
29 MR WINNEKE: Are you able to recall the names of any of
30 your clients that Wayne Strawhorn provided letters of
31 comfort for?

32
33 MS GOBBO: Not off the top of my head but I would, I'm sure
34 my memory will be assisted by looking through 98, 99, 2000,
35 just flicking through those books will be a huge help to me
36 to be more direct.

37
38 MR WINNEKE: Okay. Without recalling particular names, do
39 you recall doing pleas on one or more occasions in which
40 Wayne Strawhorn came along and provided a sealed envelope
41 with a letter in it?

42
43 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes.

44
45 MR WINNEKE: How many occasions do you believe?

46
47 MS GOBBO: I'd only be guessing but I know, I can say with

1 certainty that there would have been a couple because for
2 me to have had confidence in saying to ██████████ that
3 Wayne was a person of his word and if he did what Wayne was
4 asking he would get a very helpful letter.

5

6 MR WINNEKE: Do you recall the names of any judges - - -

7

8 MS GOBBO: I can only suppose that - - -

9

10 MR WINNEKE: - - - or prosecutors pertaining to any of
11 those matters?

12

13 MS GOBBO: Not off the top of my head other than Judge

14 ██████████

15

16 MR WINNEKE: Right. So did he provide letters of comfort
17 in relation to any of the matters that arose from Operation

18 ██████████

19

20 MS GOBBO: Not, not that I can recall but I do, I do know -
21 sorry, I do have a memory that I must have been involved as
22 either an instructor or as a barrister in matters before
23 Judge ██████████ in which Wayne Strawhorn provided letters of
24 comfort because I have a memory of Judge ██████████ not, not
25 needing to hear any kind of qualification of Wayne
26 Strawhorn as a witness.

27

28 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

29

30 MS GOBBO: It was along the lines of, "I've heard from him
31 before, yes, I know the usual procedure with him".

32

33 MR WINNEKE: Yes. So those matters were in - - -

34

35 MS GOBBO: In other words he was familiar to him.

36

37 MR WINNEKE: Sorry, I was speaking over you again. Those
38 matters were in 99, do you recall Strawhorn coming along on
39 a number of occasions post-99 and providing evidence to
40 judges on pleas? So are we talking about the period, say
41 from - - -

42

43 MS GOBBO: Yes.

44

45 MR WINNEKE: - - - 99 throughout 2000 and into 2001?

46

47 MS GOBBO: Yes. Doing the best I can, I'm certain that I

1 had seen him do that quite separate to [REDACTED] because I do
2 recall that where [REDACTED] was concerned he, he and I
3 discussed the issue of how reliable and trustworthy Wayne
4 Strawhorn was in terms of him saying, "Yes, I'm going to do
5 it for you" and then him actually doing it at the end and
6 be - I can recall being able to say to [REDACTED] "I have seen
7 him do this a number of times and he will do it" because
8 this was at a time when there was no, it was - I suppose
9 it's not that much different to now really in terms of the
10 accused person having to trust that what they're being told
11 in terms of getting some assistance will actually happen.

12
13 MR WINNEKE: Strawhorn was obviously a Senior Sergeant, so
14 generally wasn't an informant. Do you recall who the
15 informants were in matters that he in effect controlled?

16
17 MS GOBBO: Not off the top of my head, sorry.

18
19 MR WINNEKE: Can I mention a couple of names. What about
20 Steve Paton?

21
22 MS GOBBO: Yes, he was - yes, he was one.

23
24 MR WINNEKE: Right. Can I ask you about Steve Paton. Did
25 you ever act for any people in relation to whom he was the
26 informant?

27
28 MS GOBBO: I can't remember specifically but I'm, I would,
29 I would say more than likely yes because when those members
30 of the Drug Squad ended up being investigated and/or
31 charged they weren't unknown people to me - sorry, unknown
32 police officers to me.

33
34 MR WINNEKE: They weren't?

35
36 MS GOBBO: No, that's right, as in I'd had dealings with
37 them. So when you say had they been, had they been the
38 informant for people I'd acted for, I can't give you a name
39 specifically but I'm sure they were because when I came,
40 when I read or was told about Steve Paton, it wasn't me
41 saying, "I wonder who that person is?" I had had dealings
42 with them before.

43
44 MR WINNEKE: Were you surprised when he - now we understand
45 he resigned in about December of 2000. Were you surprised
46 when he resigned?

47

1 MS GOBBO: No.

2

3 MR WINNEKE: Did you have some idea that there was
4 something going on at that time in relation to the Drug
5 Squad?

6

7 MS GOBBO: Not, not specifically but there were, there was
8 a lot of talk amongst the criminal, amongst the criminal
9 fraternity about - and, you know, you take it with a grain
10 of salt at the time because they're prone to exaggerating
11 or making it sound like they've got police in their back
12 pockets.

13

14 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

15

16 MS GOBBO: But there were things that stood out in a couple
17 of accused people's briefs of evidence and the way the Drug
18 Squad were doing things at that time that, that even to me,
19 who didn't - you know, I hadn't had the experience that I'd
20 acquired in years to come, it just didn't seem right.

21

22 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

23

24 MS GOBBO: Sorry, unless - like for example, I'm pretty
25 sure it was Steve Paton and Paul Firth, the way that they
26 dealt with [REDACTED] or whatever his name turned out to
27 be, was just, I mean it was kind of, I guess, remarkable
28 insofar as how, how it could have been acceptable or
29 reasonable to do what they did.

30

31 MR WINNEKE: What did they do?

32

33 MS GOBBO: Well like I can recall the, one of the issues
34 with, what I do recall with some of Tony Mokbel's first
35 charges, that is the first - the Paul Firth charges, relied
36 upon, relied upon [REDACTED] as a witness and then if you
37 took [REDACTED] out of the equation the police were trying to
38 prove their case without, without calling [REDACTED], but by
39 reference to, for example, continuity of drug exhibits and
40 one matter I can recall, because it sticks in my mind, is
41 there had been a controlled delivery, a controlled purchase
42 of drugs involving [REDACTED] where the police had got him to go
43 from, I can't recall who, but he'd gone from buying drugs
44 from one person and then supplying them to someone else and
45 in between those two transactions he had met Steve Paton
46 and Paul Firth [REDACTED] somewhere near, somewhere near
47 the [REDACTED] or near the [REDACTED]

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MR WINNEKE: Yes.

MS GOBBO: And had, they'd divvied up the drugs on the back seat of a police car and then he'd gone from, you know, the first transaction to the second transaction and there was no, the accountability and traceability of the drug exhibits was what was - so something that gave Tony and others a lifeline down the track.

MR WINNEKE: Righto. Was that information that you gleaned from reading the brief or did you get it from other sources?

MS GOBBO: Most of, most of it would have been reading the brief but some of it came collectively from some things that clients would say but more, it was more because I had the - because I had the briefs of evidence for a number of people that, where the same informer was used, it wasn't, it wasn't that difficult to put the pieces, you know, to put the jigsaw together in terms of working out where the drugs had come from and that they might have been used two or three times.

MR WINNEKE: Yes, I follow.

MS GOBBO: By police, yes, in the same, for the same charges.

MR WINNEKE: All right. Now can I go back to the period of time around the latter part of 2000. Do you recall the occasion when [REDACTED]'s house, [REDACTED]'s house was raided in [REDACTED] by Strawhorn and Paton?

MS GOBBO: I would have - I'm sure I read about it, yes.

MR WINNEKE: Were you acting for any of the people at that time around that raid?

MS GOBBO: Late 2000? I certainly didn't act for [REDACTED]

MR WINNEKE: Did you ever meet him?

MS GOBBO: Not that I know of.

MR WINNEKE: Right. Did you know that his house - - -

1

2 MS GOBBO: No, not that I - - -

3

4 MR WINNEKE: All right. Did you know that his house was
5 raided - - -

6

7 MS GOBBO: Sorry, go on.

8

9 MR WINNEKE: - - - in about August of 2000 or thereabouts?

10

11 MS GOBBO: I don't have a specific memory of finding that,
12 finding that out but - - -

13

14 MR WINNEKE: It appears that you were aware of the raid
15 because you were aware that Jeff Pope attended at the house
16 with, I think Jim Coghlan. Do you agree with that?

17

18 MS GOBBO: I've got no memory of it but I wouldn't dispute
19 it, no.

20

21 MR WINNEKE: You may or may not be aware but Mr Pope gave
22 evidence that he did go to that house in [REDACTED] at a
23 raid which Strawhorn and Paton had been involved in.

24

25 MS GOBBO: Yep.

26

27 MR WINNEKE: And he said that he received a call from you
28 some time afterwards in which you said something along
29 these lines, "You've got no idea what you've stumbled
30 across". Now, are you able to explain that?

31

32 MS GOBBO: In August 2000? I'm just - sorry, I'm trying to
33 put it in the context of who I would have been acting for
34 at that time and what I would have - I mean it sounds like
35 I, it sounds like I had some knowledge of either what was
36 at [REDACTED]'s house or the - sorry, of what I'd say is
37 criminal dealings that he had with police officers which,
38 you know, come to light down the track. Sorry, I'm trying,
39 I'm trying to work out how, how I would have known that in
40 August of 2000.

41

42 MR WINNEKE: Right.

43

44 MS GOBBO: In my own memories I've got starting to act for
45 Tony Mokbel as a kind of reference point and a reference
46 from that.

47

1 MR WINNEKE: If I can help you out. In the period of
2 around 2000, let's start with about May of 2000.

3
4 MS GOBBO: Yes.

5
6 MR WINNEKE: You're visiting a person in custody by the
7 name of Stephen Collins, Peter Pilarinos on 15 May 2000,
8 Boris Beljajev on 4 June 2000.

9
10 MS GOBBO: Yes.

11
12 MR WINNEKE: Stephen Wallace on 3 September 2000. Mark
13 Galea on 17 September 2000. Do any of those names give you
14 any assistance?

15
16 MS GOBBO: Peter, Boris, Stephen, I can't think of a link
17 to, to [REDACTED]. Was there a [REDACTED] someone, a [REDACTED] - - -

18
19 MR WINNEKE: Just hang on.

20
21 MS GOBBO: Sorry, I can remember that there was, there was
22 - [REDACTED] and so I just remember him as
23 [REDACTED] man, but he was a drug dealer who had, he
24 had been, he was a client of Leanne Warren and he had been
25 set up by [REDACTED]. The police had used [REDACTED] in the
26 opposite way that my, that I understood that they would
27 ordinarily be doing an investigation, as in if the whole
28 point of the Drug Squad investigation was used to uncover
29 the source of, you know, drugs and to try and move up the
30 food chain to get some of the low down people to the
31 source, the ultimate source or manufacturer.

32
33 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

34
35 MS GOBBO: What they were doing with [REDACTED] appeared to be
36 the opposite which is that they were letting [REDACTED] supply
37 drugs or chemicals and then they were charging people and
38 patting themselves on the back later and saying, "Look,
39 we've charged this person with commercial trafficking" but
40 it was the same drugs that were just going around in a
41 circle. I'm sorry to be long-winded but I'm trying to, I'm
42 just trying to work out how I could - - -

43
44 MR WINNEKE: Yes. So in around August or the latter part
45 of 2000 you're trying to work out how you might have known
46 that there was something afoot with the Drug Squad?
47

1 MS GOBBO: Yes. Yes, I'm trying - - -

2

3 MR WINNEKE: Was it because - - -

4

5 MS GOBBO: Sorry, I'm just trying to - - -

6

7 MR WINNEKE: What about a [REDACTED], does that name ring
8 a bell, you appeared for him I think on a plea in 2001, or
9 an application?

10

11 MS GOBBO: Not off the top of my head, sorry. Unless he
12 was, if he was the [REDACTED], then he - I can just, look, I
13 can remember just thinking how is it that this, that this
14 is how the Drug Squad are doing things, as in - and later
15 it became apparent that they were not just allowing [REDACTED]
16 to basically re-sell the same drugs over and over, but they
17 were supplying, they were giving him presses to give to
18 people that had been confiscated and were supposed to have
19 been destroyed in previous people's convictions and they
20 were giving, distributing chemicals to allow drugs to be
21 manufactured and then patting themselves on the back and
22 saying, "Look, we've arrested A, B and C in possession of
23 chemicals" or they were supposed to not allow the drugs to
24 be manufactured but they, that is in fact what happened.

25

26 MR WINNEKE: Yes, all right. Just going back to the period
27 of 2000, you can't recall, it might have been that you rang
28 Jeffrey Pope and told him that, is that what you're saying?

29

30 MS GOBBO: Not off the top of my head, no, sorry. Sorry.

31

32 MR WINNEKE: Do you accept if that's what he said, that you
33 probably did call him and make that comment?

34

35 MS GOBBO: Like I've got no ability to - there might be
36 more to the conversation but without looking at any
37 material, I can't dispute it, no.

38

39 MR WINNEKE: Can you explain how you might have become
40 aware that the Asset Recovery Squad, Pope and/or Coghlan,
41 would have been at the house at [REDACTED] during the raid?

42

43 MS GOBBO: Because generally those police were at any
44 significant drug trafficker's home or place of residence
45 when they were the subject of a search warrant or being
46 arrested from the point of view of seizing assets or
47 restraining assets.

1

2 MR WINNEKE: This is during the period that you would be
3 meeting up with Wayne Strawhorn in South Melbourne?

4

5 MS GOBBO: Yes.

6

7 MR WINNEKE: Is it possible that it was something that was
8 discussed with Wayne Strawhorn?

9

10 MS GOBBO: As in that they'd be there, is that - - -

11

12 MR WINNEKE: Or that there had been a raid on the house?

13

14 MS GOBBO: Yeah, sorry, it's definitely possible - actually
15 probable that it was a topic of conversation. What I can't
16 be sure about is if it was, if it's possible it was before
17 or after the event.

18

19 MR WINNEKE: Okay. Now you were providing information to
20 or having discussions with Wayne Strawhorn. You believe
21 with the benefit of hindsight that he was getting
22 information from you perhaps because of your naivety. As
23 far as you were concerned what was the benefit to you
24 and/or your clients in having these discussions with
25 Strawhorn, if any?

26

27 MS GOBBO: Well probably none for anybody, none for anybody
28 else but where [REDACTED] was concerned ultimately he, he needed,
29 he needed a very strong letter of comfort because he was
30 facing a significant period of gaol time.

31

32 MR WINNEKE: Did you know about the information that [REDACTED]
33 was providing, what information he was providing to
34 Strawhorn?

35

36 MS GOBBO: Only, only fragments of it. So when - one of
37 the topics that was, I do recall was a return conversation
38 with [REDACTED] or how, how we, how there would be any way of
39 assessing how powerful or how much of this of what he was
40 doing would get him in the long run, as in he saying to me,
41 "Well I'm doing all of this stuff that Wayne Strawhorn's
42 asking me to do and, you know, he's expecting me to pay for
43 things but I don't have access to money and, you know, for
44 example, I'm handling large quantities of drugs am I" - is
45 was him saying, "Is this okay and how do we, how do we then
46 make sure that what I'm doing, you know, transpires into
47 making sure that Wayne Strawhorn keeps his word?"

1

2 MR WINNEKE: Yes. Did you know of any of the people that
3 he provided information about?

4

5 MS GOBBO: I don't have a, I can't specifically recall
6 names now but I know - - -

7

8 MR WINNEKE: Do you know whether any people were charged?

9

10 MS GOBBO: Yes, there were and I do have a recollection of
11 the, I think the last big thing that [REDACTED] did was
12 some huge, one of those - [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED] which was a significant, in those days it was
14 regarded as a very significant seizure of drugs.

15

16 MR WINNEKE: Involving - - -

17

18 MS GOBBO: But the name - - -

19

20 MR WINNEKE: - - - involving whom?

21

22 MS GOBBO: That's, I was just about to say, names I can't
23 be sure of.

24

25 MR WINNEKE: Involving any particular ethnicity?

26

27 MS GOBBO: [REDACTED] I know it was [REDACTED]

28

29 MR WINNEKE: Did you ever act for any of the people who
30 were charged?

31

32 MS GOBBO: Not that I know of. Sorry, I meant to say
33 before, one of the difficulties in, in the whole process of
34 the letter of comfort practice was that depending on who
35 the informant was sometimes you got, as a representative of
36 the accused sometimes you got to read the letter but more
37 often than not you didn't even get to read the letter. So
38 there was no ability to, to - you know, say for example,
39 you disputed, based on instructions, how much your client
40 had done, there was no way of keeping track of it or
41 cross-examining anyone about it.

42

43 MR WINNEKE: Did you have sort of debriefings with [REDACTED]
44 [REDACTED] after he'd had meetings with Wayne Strawhorn, for
45 example?

46

47 MS GOBBO: Quite a number of times, yes.

1

2 MR WINNEKE: So in effect you were keeping tabs on what he
3 was telling Wayne?

4

5 MS GOBBO: Yes. More or less, yes.

6

7 MR WINNEKE: Do you know whether he provided any
8 information in relation to [REDACTED]?

9

10 MS GOBBO: Not, not specifically but I do know that, kind
11 of what [REDACTED] was asked about was how he knew his
12 co-accused, what his relationship was with each of them.

13

14 MR WINNEKE: For the purposes of what?

15

16 MS GOBBO: From when he became an informer. I'm not
17 entirely sure what the purpose was or even what Wayne said
18 the purpose was.

19

20 MR WINNEKE: So one assumes you understood that he was
21 providing information about the likes of [REDACTED],
22 [REDACTED], would that be fair to say, to your understanding?

23

24 MS GOBBO: Either information or, which may or may not have
25 been relevant, but definitely, you know, the details of how
26 he knew each person and what his relationship was.

27

28 MR WINNEKE: Right.

29

30 MS GOBBO: And again I know my answer's coloured by
31 hindsight because when I was, when I became an informer
32 myself the police made it clear to me that it was an uneven
33 relationship and that I, that I had to, that they wouldn't
34 answer questions if I had any as in about why they wanted
35 to know, why they were asking certain things, but their
36 practice was to ask a million questions about anything and
37 everything and I remember thinking when it happened to me
38 that that was, that appears to have been the way they'd
39 done things, that even back to before [REDACTED] and I
40 suppose what they thought they were doing was casting a
41 wide net and then picking the bits that were of most
42 interest or more urgent than others.

43

44 MR WINNEKE: Did you know whether she - perhaps I'll
45 withdraw that. Did you make recordings of any discussions
46 you had with [REDACTED] about his debriefings, I'm sorry, his
47 discussions with Strawhorn?

1

2 MS GOBBO: I think I, I think I may have made handwritten
3 notes but as in tape recordings or the like, no.

4

5 MR WINNEKE: What about attending meetings in which [REDACTED]
6 was asked questions by Strawhorn?

7

8 MS GOBBO: No. No. The first and only time I have
9 recorded a conversation with a police officer is the Dale
10 conversation.

11

12 MR WINNEKE: I'm not talking about recording but making
13 notes. Did you, firstly - - -

14

15 MS GOBBO: Sorry.

16

17 MR WINNEKE: Were you present when [REDACTED] was asked questions
18 by Strawhorn about the likes of [REDACTED]

19

20

21 MS GOBBO: I don't - not specifically. Look, I don't, I
22 don't remember being with him, as in with [REDACTED], when he was
23 asked questions, you know, of that kind of detailed nature
24 about any kind of criminal activity.

25

26 MR WINNEKE: Yes, okay.

27

28 MS GOBBO: In fact more likely I would specifically exclude
29 him from that process.

30

31 MR WINNEKE: Did you know of any other informants who were
32 used by Wayne Strawhorn? Informers rather.

33

34 MS GOBBO: There were others but off the top of my head,
35 no.

36

37 MR WINNEKE: Did you provide Strawhorn with any informers
38 from the ranks of people who you represented?

39

40 MS GOBBO: Not - no, not that I recall but just going back
41 to your first question, there must have been - sorry, there
42 were definitely people who I know had informed because I
43 had seen, I had experience myself in seeing Wayne provide a
44 letter of comfort and keep his end of the bargain to the
45 extent that when [REDACTED] did what he did I was confident in
46 saying, "Here is a police officer who if he says he'll do
47 it he actually will do it".

1

2 MR WINNEKE: Okay. I asked you about Steve Paton and
3 whether you had acted for any people that he had charged.
4 Do you recall a Charles Briffa?

5

6 MS GOBBO: Yes. Now that you say the name, yes.

7

8 MR WINNEKE: Did you ever speak to Steve Paton or Wayne
9 Strawhorn about Charles Briffa?

10

11 MS GOBBO: Not, not that I can recall specifically but I've
12 got a vague recollection that Briffa had a co-accused that
13 he had not a falling out with but a difference of opinion
14 with.

15

16

17

18 MR WINNEKE: Is that Patrick Madigan?

19

20 MS GOBBO: Yes.

21

22 MR WINNEKE: And did you act for both of those people?

23

24 MS GOBBO: I've got no, I can't, I'd just be guessing to
25 say one way or the other but what often happened is I ended
26 up acting for more than one accused because once one person
27 got bail or you got bail for one person they, their
28 co-accused effectively sought you out on the basis, "You
29 got him bail so can you please do the same for me".

30

31 MR WINNEKE: All right. So Madigan was charged by Kruger,
32 Briffa was charged by Paton. Do you recall which one you
33 ended up acting for?

34

35 MS GOBBO: No, not specifically and I don't want to guess.

36

37 MR WINNEKE: Okay, all right. Do you recall a person by
38 the name of Peter Clipperton who Steve Paton charged?

39

40 MS GOBBO: Sorry, who?

41

42 MR WINNEKE: Peter Clipperton, C-l-i-p-p-e-r-t-o-n?

43

44 MS GOBBO: The name has familiarity but I can't recall any
45 detail about him.

46

47 MR WINNEKE: Do you believe that you would have provided

1 inadvertently perhaps information about any of those people
2 to members of the Drug Squad, for example, Wayne Strawhorn?

3

4 MS GOBBO: Potentially, yes.

5

6 MR WINNEKE: Can I ask you about Paul Firth. Now, had he
7 charged Tony Mokbel and Milad Mokbel in 2002, do you recall
8 that?

9

10 MS GOBBO: Yes, he was their informant.

11

12 MR WINNEKE: Do you recall ever speaking to Paul Firth
13 about any of those matters or Wayne - perhaps I'll withdraw
14 that.

15

16 MS GOBBO: I spoke to Paul Firth about - - -

17

18 MR WINNEKE: Yes, did you ever provide any information to
19 police in relation to those briefs, either inadvertently or
20 otherwise, whether Drug Squad or anyone else?

21

22 MS GOBBO: Not that I can - not that I can recall but
23 obviously those, those accused, or those clients were
24 specific, of specific interest to the police when I
25 officially became the informer.

26

27 MR WINNEKE: All right. Are you able to describe your
28 relationship with Paul Firth? Was it, looking back now, an
29 appropriate relationship or perhaps otherwise?

30

31 MS GOBBO: I would say a mutual distrust. I don't - - -

32

33 MR WINNEKE: What about - - -

34

35 MS GOBBO: I don't recall him - sorry, go on.

36

37 MR WINNEKE: No, no, you finish.

38

39 MS GOBBO: I don't, I don't recall ever being particularly
40 friendly with him.

41

42 MR WINNEKE: Okay.

43

44 MS GOBBO: But I do, I do recall him being, him being or me
45 being given the impression, rather, that he was a kind of
46 trusted inner circle of Wayne Strawhorn.

47

1 MR WINNEKE: Right.

2

3 MS GOBBO: So I got - for example, I don't have a memory of
4 ever sitting down and talking to Paul Firth but if - I
5 wouldn't be surprised if he was present when I spoke to
6 Wayne Strawhorn from time to time because - - -

7

8 MR WINNEKE: Are you able to recall who was in that circle
9 of trust, if you like, of Wayne Strawhorn's?

10

11 MS GOBBO: Yes. So Steve Paton was one, yes.

12

13 MS GOBBO: It was his, it was his crew. So the Drug Squad
14 structure was the Senior Sergeant, Sergeant and then
15 Detective Senior Constables and - I just can't think of
16 names off the top of my head but any - I think he was crew
17 2 and it was all of the officers in his crew were his
18 little trusted circle. They were like a little - they were
19 like a club or a club in and of themselves.

20

21 MR WINNEKE: So what about a fellow by the name of Bowden?

22

23 MS GOBBO: I don't have a specific memory of him but - no,
24 I don't have a specific memory. I know that Paton and
25 Firth stand out in my mind because they, they were the
26 subject of a lot of subpoena requests in trials to come.

27

28 MR WINNEKE: What about David Bartlett?

29

30 MS GOBBO: Yes. Dave Bartlett not only was in Wayne
31 Strawhorn's circle but he, he was a continued police
32 officer in the Drug Squad into my informing time.

33

34 MR WINNEKE: And did he ever charge any people who you
35 acted for?

36

37 MS GOBBO: Yes, he was, I think he was Milad Mokbel's
38 informant from - unless my memory's wrong, I'm pretty sure
39 he was his informant.

40

41 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

42

43 MS GOBBO: And he was in, heavily involved in the [REDACTED]
44 , in the [REDACTED] brief of evidence of [REDACTED]

45

46 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

47

1 MS GOBBO: There were, there were a whole lot of people,
2 drug dealers, charged by the crew of, the Wayne Strawhorn
3 crew, who had the common denominator of the same informer
4 being involved as in [REDACTED] and then there was another, I
5 just can't think of the name, it will come to me, but there
6 were a number of groups of people that were charged,
7 different drug dealing syndicates, I suppose, for want of a
8 better expression.

9
10 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

11
12 MS GOBBO: And it was the same police in each, in each of
13 them.

14
15 MR WINNEKE: Do you recall a person by the name of Rimond
16 Kachab?

17
18 MS GOBBO: Yes.

19
20 MR WINNEKE: Was he charged by David Bartlett or at least
21 arrested by him?

22
23 MS GOBBO: I think so, yes. With Bartlett, Bartlett might
24 have also been the, he may have been Jacques El-Hage's
25 informant as well. Sorry, the more - I'm sorry, unless my
26 memory gets prompted by a name then I - anyway, sorry. My
27 head feels like a washing machine at the moment.

28
29 MR WINNEKE: I follow, okay. Are you right to keep going?

30
31 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes. I mean not necessarily because of you
32 asking questions, it's more separate to the questions. I'm
33 actually due to see a psychiatrist on Friday.

34
35 MR WINNEKE: Right.

36
37 MS GOBBO: Quite separate, separate to this process because
38 of the ruminating on thoughts and obsessing about who fits
39 into where and I feel like I need to try to find things
40 that will independently corroborate things that I
41 instructed my lawyers or, for example, things about Jeff
42 Pope that's occupied an inordinate amount of time that's
43 probably, but may not be from the Royal Commission's point
44 of view a useful, a useful thing for me to be doing.

45
46 COMMISSIONER: Did you want to have - you've been going for
47 some time now, Nicola - Commissioner McMurdo speaking - did

1 you want to have a five minute break?

2

3 MS GOBBO: No, no, I've just swallowed a painkiller. I

4 mean I'm - it's kind of - look, it's okay, it's just

5 information overload and I'm, I really don't want to come

6 across as, I don't want you to form an impression that I'm

7 trying to, that I'm not trying to answer as quickly as I

8 can but I don't have - if I even had the ability to look

9 through my court books from those years I would have - - -

10

11 MR WINNEKE: What have you got? What have you actually got

12 at the moment?

13

14 MS GOBBO: Nothing. Literally nothing.

15

16 MR WINNEKE: Literally nothing. You're going from memory?

17

18 MS GOBBO: No. Yes.

19

20 COMMISSIONER: Have the transcripts of the hearings been

21 sent to you, Nicola?

22

23 MS GOBBO: Yes, I have got that, and I did, with

24 difficulty, manage to print it. Because of the nature of

25 it I'm pretty reluctant to just, you know, print it

26 anywhere because I don't want it ending up in the wrong

27 hands. But I've literally got nothing so my, my laptop

28 computer has, I know it will have many documents that would

29 assist me being able to sound like a much less scattered

30 person that answers questions and it's been, I understand

31 IT people are retrieving thousands of documents from - - -

32

33 COMMISSIONER: Are you there? Hello? Hello?

34

35 MR NATHWANI: I think we lost her, Commissioner, I think

36 the line cut out.

37

38 COMMISSIONER: All right. How about we take a five minute

39 break and we'll try and re-establish the line, please.

40

41 MR COLLINSON: Look, it's Peter Collinson speaking. Can I

42 just clarify one thing there? Based upon our understanding

43 Nicola, I think, has been sent the transcript of her own

44 evidence but not the general hearings. It's possible,

45 however, that Nicola has accessed the transcripts on the

46 Royal Commission website. I just give you that information

47 based on our knowledge here amongst the lawyers.

1
2 MR WINNEKE: Thanks, Peter.
3
4 COMMISSIONER: Thanks.
5
6 MR WINNEKE: Can I just, Peter, ask you this: when is it
7 expected that Nicola's going to get copies of her diaries
8 and court books and the like that would give her a bit more
9 assistance as to what went on? And when are we going to
10 get it?
11
12 COMMISSIONER: Notice to Produce.
13
14 MR COLLINSON: I'm happy to answer that. Do you mind if I
15 give you the answer after the break because otherwise I'll
16 be answering on the run?
17
18 MR WINNEKE: No, that's okay.
19
20 MR COLLINSON: We'll let you know after the break.
21
22 COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
23
24 (Short adjournment.)
25
26 COMMISSIONER: Okay, I think everyone's back on the phone,
27 is that right?
28
29 MR RAPKE: Yes, we've put it on mute for just one moment.
30
31 COMMISSIONER: Hello, I think everyone's back. So we've
32 got Ms Gobbo and Ms Gobbo's legal representatives?
33 Correct?
34
35 MR COLLINSON: Yes.
36
37 MS GOBBO: Sorry, yes.
38
39 COMMISSIONER: Thank you. And Ms Gobbo, you're comfortable
40 now and ready to proceed?
41
42 MS GOBBO: Yes, sorry, I don't know what happened
43 (indistinct). It just literally dropped out and by the
44 time I got put through to the conference room in [REDACTED]
45 it had been disconnected.
46
47 COMMISSIONER: Yes, okay, fine. It gave us all an

1 opportunity to have a break.

2

3 MS GOBBO: So - and I thank you because I got another

4 coffee. I was just saying before the call hung up, I'm at
5 pains to not, to try and not sound just helpful but

6 actually try and be helpful and I know, I apologise for

7 sounding vague because I know when you asked what material
8 I have, I literally have the transcript of the last

9 conversation that was emailed to me and when my lawyers

10 have received specific statements, like a Pope statement,

11 I've been emailed those documents, but beyond that I don't

12 have access to anything. I understand that's why - - -

13

14 COMMISSIONER: Sorry, Nicola, you know the website, the

15 RCMPI website has information on it, including transcripts

16 from hearings.

17

18 MS GOBBO: Yes, I know. I'm not - I've been, I'm careful

19 on my - (indistinct) on my need [REDACTED]

20 and there's a difficulty to do anything or have time for

21 anything else, but in talking to my psychologist yesterday,

22 I find, I find it, like distressing is probably an

23 understatement, to try and read anything as I feel like I

24 need to be, I feel like I'm on the defensive, like I need

25 to prove that I, what I'm saying is accurate. And in terms

26 of my mental state I've been referred to a psychiatrist on

[REDACTED] because I probably haven't been, I literally haven't

28 been as depressed and despairing as I currently am since I

29 was suicidal in 2008. So the psychiatrist on [REDACTED] is

30 because my psychologist [REDACTED] is concerned enough that I

31 need to see one. So I'm not trying to excuse - - -

32

33 COMMISSIONER: No, no, we understand it's difficult for you

34 without documents and the Commission's pleased that you are

35 getting some assistance, that's good. Could I ask you, and

36 if at any stage, if at any time - - -

37

38 MS GOBBO: Could I just say, just in answer to the question

39 you asked before, that I do, I understand that my laptop

40 computer which has years of information, and including old

41 emails, two email addresses, is being looked at by IT

42 people who can search for, you know, topics and names that

43 will be of relevance to the Commission and will assist my

44 memory.

45

46 COMMISSIONER: Yes.

47

1 MS GOBBO: In addition to that all the index to all the
2 material that was [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED] I've suggested that maybe a way to make that process
4 more efficient and for me to have my memory prompted to be
5 able to put things into a statement that are of relevance
6 and that would assist in what the Royal Commission needs to
7 do, would be to [REDACTED] and for me to mark pages
8 and then - do you know what I mean, just produce thousands
9 of pages to you, give you specific entries that are - - -

10
11 COMMISSIONER: All right. We can discuss that with, the
12 lawyers for the Royal Commission can discuss that with your
13 lawyers after this hearing.

14
15 MS GOBBO: Yes.

16
17 COMMISSIONER: All right then. Could I just ask a couple
18 of things. Going back to Mr Pope's evidence, just briefly
19 to - he claims that after he went with Coghlan to [REDACTED]'s
20 house in [REDACTED] - - -

21
22 MS GOBBO: Yes.

23
24 COMMISSIONER: - - - that you phoned him and said about
25 that place, "You've got no idea what you've stumbled
26 across". Now you've said you don't recall that but it may
27 have happened but you don't recall it.

28
29 MS GOBBO: Yes.

30
31 COMMISSIONER: Do you know what you would have meant if
32 you'd said that, "You've got no idea what you've stumbled
33 across"?

34
35 MS GOBBO: I'm assuming what I was referring to was the
36 fact that there was, that he was the centre of a drug
37 dealing and informing relationship that at least from my
38 point of view wasn't appropriate, or wasn't legal.

39
40 COMMISSIONER: Yes, all right. Nothing else you can help
41 us with there?

42
43 MS GOBBO: No, and it may have been because of the quantity
44 of money and drugs that were there. I mean that's just my
45 logic thinking why I would have spoken to an asset recovery
46 police officer about this.

47

1 COMMISSIONER: At that time did you have any knowledge of
2 police illicit involvement or anything of that nature?
3

4 MS GOBBO: That's one I'm not, not specific recollection,
5 but this is during a period in which accused would often
6 divulge that they had far more cash or drugs or whatever,
7 jewellery for example, than what police put in an exhibit
8 log and it was never in their interest to admit that or to
9 pursue a complaint about it because they would, it would
10 just mean that they had the potential of being charged or
11 prosecuted for more drugs than what the police claimed they
12 found. But it was, it was a common theme that seemed to be
13 prevalent with members of the Drug Squad.

14
15 COMMISSIONER: All right then. Now another thing, he
16 claimed, Pope that is claimed that he had a conversation
17 with you about you asking him to travel to either the
18 States or Hawaii with him. Do you remember that?
19

20 MS GOBBO: I've read his statement and that is unmitigated
21 rubbish.
22

23 COMMISSIONER: And around about that time - - -
24

25 MS GOBBO: Sorry, there's no, I can say categorically, the
26 only time I've travelled to the United States is with my
27 mother and sister. I've never, never gone or had a desire
28 to go by myself, let alone - I mean that's just ridiculous
29 to suggest that I was, that I would have even entertained
30 the idea of going with anyone, Pope included.
31

32 COMMISSIONER: Right.
33

34 MS GOBBO: And a suggestion that I offered to pay is, I
35 mean that whole paragraph in his statement is just, it's
36 absurd.
37

38 COMMISSIONER: All right. Can you remember - - -
39

40 MS GOBBO: I've got to say, I'm not the sort of person who,
41 and I wasn't then and I'm still not the sort of female in a
42 relationship to, to have the self-confidence to say things
43 like that.
44

45 COMMISSIONER: Okay, I understand. I understand.
46

47 MS GOBBO: It's not me.

1

2 COMMISSIONER: Can you help me with when you might have
3 travelled to Hawaii or America, what year and what time of

4 year?

5

6 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes.

7

8 COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

9

10 MS GOBBO: So my last trip to the United States was Hawaii
11 with my sister and that was 2011 from memory, which was the
12 year our mother died. I haven't been to the United States
13 since then. And prior to, prior to that I know that my
14 mother and sister were in the United States in 2004 when I
15 had my stroke and I think when Jason Moran was murdered,
16 which was 2003, I think that was the last trip I ever had
17 with my mother because we were at the, my mother and I were
18 at the airport waiting to leave when, when it came on the
19 news. Our flight was delayed and it came on the news that
20 Jason Moran had been, that the Barbaro/Moran football
21 clinic murder had taken place. But in the years leading up
22 to 03, the only time I went was - mainly it was my
23 mother's, once a year she would, she would go to either
24 Hawaii or Las Vegas and it was kind of something that we
25 did, it started after dad died, that she would take us away
26 once a year or every two years. But I know that by, by the
27 early 2000s my ability to have - or to make time for her to
28 go was more difficult because of work. I'm pretty sure the
29 last trip with her and my sister was about July 2003 and
30 then, and my last trip to Hawaii with my mum would have
31 been in the 90s maybe, the early 90s, but definitely the
32 suggestion or plan to go when Pope says is preposterous.

33

34 COMMISSIONER: Okay.

35

36 MR WINNEKE: Did you ever go by yourself, to Hawaii or the
37 US?

38

39 MS GOBBO: To Hawaii or the States, no, no, no. No, I, I
40 travelled - - -

41

42 MR WINNEKE: Did you ever apply - - -

43

44 MS GOBBO: I travelled back. The last trip that I went
45 with my mother and sister I travelled back by myself
46 because I had some, I had some trial date, some date that I
47 couldn't - I can't remember what it was - some reason that

1 I came back a few days before them, but that's the only
2 time I can recall travelling by myself.

3

4 COMMISSIONER: Okay, thanks very much. I'll just hand back
5 to Mr Winneke now.

6

7 MS GOBBO: Yes.

8

9 COMMISSIONER: Just before I do that, at some point did you
10 become aware that [REDACTED] was an informer, a police
11 informer?

12

13 MS GOBBO: Yes. It was a common, it was a common, commonly
14 known fact.

15

16 COMMISSIONER: And do you remember when you became aware of
17 that?

18

19 MS GOBBO: Not specifically but - not specifically, no, and
20 I, I can tell you that there were - because I acted for so
21 many people charged with drug trafficking it was
22 self-evident from the way they were arrested and charged
23 that he was an informer and even without some kind of
24 documentary proof of it, then the police prepared hand-up
25 briefs, or whatever they were called in those days, and
26 answered subpoenas, they routinely forgot to delete
27 references to people like [REDACTED]. So it was, to suggest
28 that it was anything other than common knowledge is wrong.

29

30 COMMISSIONER: Did you become aware of his informer number
31 at some point?

32

33 MS GOBBO: Yes, because it was left in police day book
34 entries and diary entries, [REDACTED], something like
35 that.

36

37 COMMISSIONER: Thanks. I'll hand over now to Mr Winneke.
38 Thank you.

39

40 MR WINNEKE: Did you know that he was represented by [REDACTED]
41 [REDACTED]

42

43 MS GOBBO: At some point, yes.

44

45 MR WINNEKE: Did you ever speak to [REDACTED] about him?

46

47 MS GOBBO: Not that I can recall, but I may have.

1

2 MR WINNEKE: Was [REDACTED] at the Bar then or was he a
3 solicitor?

4

5 MS GOBBO: No, I think he was - - -

6

7 MR WINNEKE: I'm talking around - sorry, around 2000.

8

9 MS GOBBO: Yes. I don't - not - he was at the Bar at one
10 stage and then he went, I think he went back to working for
11 himself in an office in [REDACTED].

12

13 MR WINNEKE: Yes. Did he ever brief you?

14

15 MS GOBBO: No.

16

17 MR WINNEKE: And were you ever representing co-accused with
18 him?

19

20 MS GOBBO: I can't specifically recall anyone but I may
21 have.

22

23 MR WINNEKE: All right. I just want to - can I just
24 briefly go back to Jeff Pope for a moment.

25

26 MS GOBBO: Yes.

27

28 MR WINNEKE: What you say is that there was an on and off
29 relationship over a number of months. Was that confined to
30 that period of time, that is a number of months and, if so,
31 how many months was it?

32

33 MS GOBBO: Look, I'd only be guessing or approximating but
34 I'd say at least, at least four to six months.

35

36 MR WINNEKE: All right.

37

38 MS GOBBO: And it wasn't - I wouldn't say
39 relationship/relationship, I would say it was more, it was
40 - I mean it was a - he didn't hide the fact and I well knew
41 he was married, it was his bit on the side and it was
42 something that was known to other people. He wasn't
43 particularly secretive about it.

44

45 MR WINNEKE: Who do you believe also knew?

46

47 MS GOBBO: Wayne Strawhorn knew and - - -

1

2 MR WINNEKE: Why do you believe he knew?

3

4 MS GOBBO: Because of the way Pope behaved around him and
5 because Wayne knew that there were, that I'd had

6 conversations or contact with Pope outside of, outside of
7 anything that was police business, I suppose.

8

9 MR WINNEKE: Did you tell Strawhorn that?

10

11 MS GOBBO: I can't, I can't recall specifically but I
12 wouldn't have, I wouldn't have hidden it. These are days
13 when there were, it was a regular occurrence to be at a pub
14 where guys such as Pope were drinking and when I say it was
15 casual, it was just that we ended up leaving together or
16 meeting up. There would be people who would have been
17 around when we were drinking who would have, who would be
18 able to say yes, they were, or it looked like they were
19 together.

20

21 MR WINNEKE: Are we talking about the Emerald Hotel?

22

23 MS GOBBO: That's one venue.

24

25 MR WINNEKE: Where else would you have had drinks with Jeff
26 Pope?

27

28 MS GOBBO: Well there was another - the Railway Hotel was
29 another one.

30

31 MR WINNEKE: The where? Railway?

32

33 MS GOBBO: I think it was the Railway Hotel.

34

35 MR WINNEKE: In South Melbourne?

36

37 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes. That was, that was one.

38

39 MR WINNEKE: How often would you have had drinks with Jeff
40 Pope in a pub? How many times did that occur?

41

42 MS GOBBO: At least, at least three or four.

43

44 MR WINNEKE: And after how many of those occasions would
45 you have engaged in sexual activities with him?

46

47 MS GOBBO: Probably three or four.

1

2 MR WINNEKE: And whereabouts?

3

4 MS GOBBO: My house or my apartment which, as I said

5

before, I have got one, I can recall [REDACTED] on one

6

occasion. I think before that I was living in [REDACTED]

7

[REDACTED] and I can't, I haven't got a specific - as

8

I sit here now I can't specifically recall walking through

9

the door, opening the door with him in [REDACTED]

10

[REDACTED] was one place that we went.

11

12 MR WINNEKE: You mentioned before [REDACTED]

13

14 MS GOBBO: Yes, I just can't - yes, I lived in [REDACTED]

15

initially and then sold there, moved to [REDACTED]

16

for a couple of years, then sold there and then moved to

17

[REDACTED]

18

19 MR WINNEKE: All right. Just assuming that Jeff Pope is
20 meeting with you, let's say from around May of 1999 through
21 towards the end of 99, would that be the period - - -

22

23 MS GOBBO: Yep.

24

25 MR WINNEKE: - - - during which you're also in an intimate
26 relationship with him, on and off?

27

28 MS GOBBO: Probably. As in it could have been, it could
29 have been months before or months afterwards as well and my
30 best chance of being able to be more accurate is to look at

31

- - -

32

33 MR WINNEKE: Your diaries.

34

35 MS GOBBO: - - - pages in my diaries.

36

37 MR WINNEKE: Okay. And were you meeting with Wayne
38 Strawhorn on and off during the same period of time?

39

40 MS GOBBO: Yes.

41

42 MR WINNEKE: To the best of your recollection - - -

43

44 MS GOBBO: And, sorry, I meant to say - sorry, go on?

45

46 MR WINNEKE: What I said was assuming that Pope's correct
47 and that you're providing information to him from about 12

1 May 99 through to about October or thereabouts of 99, does
2 that coincide with the intimate relationship and you've
3 said maybe, or it may be before or it may be after?

4
5 MS GOBBO: It includes that time but it may have, it may
6 have gone into the following year.

7
8 MR WINNEKE: Okay. Now how did it finish? Why did it
9 finish?

10
11 MS GOBBO: Well it wasn't, it wasn't a - I guess I wouldn't
12 call it a relationship.

13
14 MR WINNEKE: Yes, okay.

15
16 MS GOBBO: It was more a - - -

17
18 MR WINNEKE: A series of on-offs?

19
20 MS GOBBO: Yes, basically. It was a, you know, "Are you
21 free? Let's catch up" what young people today would call a
22 hook up, for want of a better expression, but what I was
23 going to say is that when - I may have been able to be more
24 accurate in terms of time line because when I started
25 dealing with **Sandy White** as an informer myself, or
26 knowing that I was an informer.

27
28 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

29
30 MS GOBBO: They grilled me about all kinds of things,
31 random subjects and people. Like there would be, I'm sure
32 there would be discussions that I had with them about Jeff
33 Pope because that was - it wasn't a specific topic that
34 they were interested in, but it was more in the context of,
35 "Tell us who you've had" - or, sorry, if that person's name
36 came up then they would ask questions and they were always
37 reiterating to me that I should work on the assumption that
38 they knew everything about everything and that I should
39 tell them as much detail as I could because it was for them
40 to work out what might be relevant and might not be
41 relevant to anything and not my place to ask questions.

42
43 MR WINNEKE: Would you have told them, for example, that
44 you had regularly - perhaps I'll withdraw that - that you'd
45 met Wayne Strawhorn on a number of occasions and had
46 discussions with him?

1 MS GOBBO: Yes. Yes.

2

3 MR WINNEKE: All right. On that question, are you able to
4 recall to the best of your recollection, now that we've
5 asked you a few questions about this, how many times you
6 might have met Wayne Strawhorn and provided information to
7 him?

8

9 MS GOBBO: I would say at least, at least half a dozen.

10

11 MR WINNEKE: Right, at least half a dozen.

12

13 MS GOBBO: Yep.

14

15 MR WINNEKE: Over what period of time?

16

17 MS GOBBO: Well, over the time - at least over the time
18 period of me acting for [REDACTED] and following on into,
19 into the time in which he was working for Wayne but leading
20 up to when Wayne got suspended and arrested.

21

22 MR WINNEKE: So even after he left the Drug Squad you
23 continued to - - -

24

25 MS GOBBO: Yes.

26

27 MR WINNEKE: - - - meet and have discussions with Wayne
28 Strawhorn?

29

30 MS GOBBO: Well it was - I know that the last conversation
31 or the last time I met Strawhorn was in connection with
32 what [REDACTED] was doing, because it was to do with the wash up
33 of the, I just call it the [REDACTED] incident, when that was,
34 my belief was that was the last big thing that [REDACTED] had
35 done for Wayne.

36

37 MR WINNEKE: Yes.

38

39 MS GOBBO: But that subsequent to that there were still
40 bits and pieces that [REDACTED] was being, that I understood
41 from [REDACTED] that he was doing for Wayne. That's how I'm
42 able to say that I had contact with Wayne post whatever
43 time he left the Drug Squad.

44

45 MR WINNEKE: How long prior to his arrest?

46

47 MS GOBBO: I'd only be guessing. I don't - not sure

1 because I don't even, I can't even remember specifically
2 when he was arrested.

3
4 MR WINNEKE: I think it was in 2003. Does that help you at
5 all or not?

6
7 MS GOBBO: Not really. I just - look, I can remember it
8 being a surprise that he was arrested in the context of
9 [REDACTED] was - you know, there was no delays on our part, or
10 on my part about getting [REDACTED]'s matter to a courtroom. It
11 was, there were, the adjournments were just facilitated by
12 Wayne Strawhorn speaking to the Crown and him, his bail was
13 continued without ever there being any issue or need to
14 have a closed court or anything of the like. It was just
15 basically, I suppose it was, it was Wayne Strawhorn's
16 persona, he was a man who could easily get things done if
17 he said to the Crown Prosecutor, "Adjourn this for six
18 months, 12 months", whatever, so what I'm really saying is
19 that when it came time for [REDACTED]'s plea, he'd been on bail,
20 I don't know it was seven, about, years or eight years and
21 the last, the last contact I had with Strawhorn was to do
22 with the last things [REDACTED] was doing and in relation to
23 getting some, getting some idea of what would be, you know,
24 in the letter for the purposes of preparing a plea. And
25 then the next thing Wayne Strawhorn gets arrested and then
26 nobody seems to be able to answer what's going on.

27
28 MR WINNEKE: So leading into the period that he's arrested
29 you're still having discussions, one assumes, with
30 Strawhorn about what's going to be said and when - - -

31
32 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes.

33
34 MR WINNEKE: - - - [REDACTED] s going to plead guilty, when it's
35 going to get on?

36
37 MS GOBBO: Yes, correct. Because it was, it was an
38 understanding, my understanding at the time was that it
39 would effectively be dictated by Wayne Strawhorn in terms
40 of when [REDACTED]'s usefulness came to expire or when he'd
41 done, when he'd done enough to, for Wayne to write or
42 provide evidence of the highest level of assistance.

43
44 MR WINNEKE: Had he reached that stage? Did you get the
45 impression that that stage had been reached by the time he
46 was arrested or was he still more or less telling you,
47 "Look, we haven't got to that stage yet"?

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MS GOBBO: No, my belief was that it was after the [REDACTED]
after the [REDACTED] bust.

MR WINNEKE: That was in 2000, wasn't it?

MS GOBBO: One of the things that [REDACTED] - yes. I can't
recall what year it was but that - because over time [REDACTED]
had concerns which he expressed to me over, you know, where
the end would be as in when is enough enough and Wayne
wanting him to do other things or speak to other people and
I guess, you know, what I now know is the difference
between providing intelligence as opposed to being tasked
to do specific things. That wasn't clear at the time and I
wasn't privy to everything that [REDACTED] was doing or being
asked to do.

MR WINNEKE: How did you know that [REDACTED] was going to or
had communicated with Wayne Strawhorn on each occasion?

MS GOBBO: From [REDACTED] telling me. I wouldn't say each and
every time but from time to time he would, he would come in
and see me or speak to me to find out what was, whether I'd
heard anything in terms of when we were going to court
because he, he was, you know, he was working on the
assumption that he was still going to have to go to gaol.
He was hoping to not go to gaol but he was expecting that
there would be some period of interruption to his life and
he wanted some certainty about when.

MR WINNEKE: Okay. The last job that he was interested in,
that is with respect - you've spoken about a [REDACTED] job,
the last major issue - - -

MS GOBBO: Yes.

MR WINNEKE: - - - with [REDACTED]. Did that involve a
significant number of ecstasy tablets?

MS GOBBO: Yes, yes. I just have a, again without, without
looking at any material or even if I could read [REDACTED]'s,
the transcript of his plea would prompt my memory, but the
last, that was the last investigation that I would put in
the category of [REDACTED] being asked to do something as
opposed to, you know, the other bits and pieces that he was
doing for Wayne Strawhorn or information gathering, but the
[REDACTED] at the time involved a [REDACTED] of ecstasy

1 tablets.

2

3 MR WINNEKE: Yes. And so, just to be clear, did he
4 continue to provide information as opposed to being tasked
5 subsequent to that?

6

7 MS GOBBO: Yes. Yes.

8

9 MR WINNEKE: And that I think - - -

10

11 MS GOBBO: Because he was still, he was still, he was still
12 classified as being, being useful to Wayne after that
13 arrest.

14

15 MR WINNEKE: Right. So you continued - let's say that's in
16 around November of 2000. He still continued to be useful
17 and therefore you believe you were still meeting with Wayne
18 Strawhorn for a period after that, after - - -

19

20 MS GOBBO: Beyond that date, yes. Yes.

21

22 MR WINNEKE: Are we talking for a period of years after
23 that or months?

24

25 MS GOBBO: I'm not - I don't want to guess so I'm not sure.

26

27 MR WINNEKE: All right. Assuming he's arrested in [REDACTED] of
28 2003, that is Strawhorn, and the last, the major task
29 culminated in arrest in November of 2000, does that assist
30 you?

31

32 MS GOBBO: There definitely, I definitely would have been
33 still speaking to Wayne Strawhorn up until the year before
34 he was arrested.

35

36 MR WINNEKE: So 2002?

37

38 MS GOBBO: Yes.

39

40 MR WINNEKE: And bearing in mind the Drug Squad was
41 disbanded in about December of 2001, you still continued to
42 talk to him after that?

43

44 MS GOBBO: Yes.

45

46 MR WINNEKE: Did you ever hear of a person - - -

47

1 MS GOBBO: And I can only - I was, sorry, I would hope that
2 why those court books might lead to some references and/or
3 phone records because it was mobile to mobile with Wayne
4 Strawhorn, so there would be, at least from my point of
5 view, there would be phone records.

6
7 MR WINNEKE: How frequently would you speak over the
8 telephone?

9
10 MS GOBBO: Not frequently. I'm not saying it's detailed,
11 but there would be phone contact to arrange to meet.

12
13 MR WINNEKE: Was there ever phone contact not in the
14 context of a meeting but simply communications?

15
16 MS GOBBO: No, because Wayne was exceptionally paranoid
17 about speaking on the phone or about any long conversations
18 on phones.

19
20 MR WINNEKE: Right.

21
22 MS GOBBO: In fact he was to the point of being, he would
23 come across as, if you didn't know him he would come across
24 as rude because he didn't like, he didn't like phone
25 conversations.

26
27 MR WINNEKE: I assume it was a mobile phone, was it?

28
29 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes.

30
31 MR WINNEKE: Do you know whether it was his work phone or a
32 personal phone or not?

33
34 MS GOBBO: I don't, I don't know. Don't know.

35
36 MR WINNEKE: Did you ever hear of the name Kerry Milty?

37
38 MS GOBBO: Yeah.

39
40 MR WINNEKE: In what context?

41
42 MS GOBBO: I just can't - I'm just trying to think of what
43 context I first heard his name. I just can't, I can't put
44 it into a context but the name is familiar.

45
46 MR WINNEKE: Okay, all right.

47

1 MS GOBBO: I can't remember how it's connected to Wayne,
2 sorry.

3

4 MR WINNEKE: Okay, that's all right. Now, you mentioned
5 that there were other members of Strawhorn's inner circle
6 or people in his crew. I think you've mentioned a number
7 of names so far, Firth and Paton and Bartlett. Now can I
8 ask you about these other names: [REDACTED] Kruger, was he in
9 Strawhorn's group?

10

11 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes.

12

13 MR WINNEKE: A police officer by the name of McCabe?

14

15 MS GOBBO: Jimmy McCabe, yes, because he ended up charged
16 with drug trafficking himself or money laundering or
17 something and he went to the, he went to the NCA at some
18 point.

19

20 MR WINNEKE: How do you know that?

21

22 MS GOBBO: Over gambling matters I think.

23

24 MR WINNEKE: Right. How did you know he went to the NCA?

25

26 MS GOBBO: Because I must have had - I think I must have
27 acted for someone that he charged or he may have been a
28 witness statement in a brief. Not, sorry - I don't want to
29 guess so not sure.

30

31 MR WINNEKE: Okay. Marty Allison?

32

33 MS GOBBO: Yes. Marty Allison, yes, because I had had no
34 contact with him or not even read his name from when he was
35 part of the group that raided my house in Rathdowne Street
36 and then a decade later he turns up at the Drug Squad.

37

38 MR WINNEKE: And Dave Miechel?

39

40 MS GOBBO: Yes.

41

42 MR WINNEKE: Was he in Strawhorn's group?

43

44 MS GOBBO: He was in Strawhorn's group but Strawhorn
45 regarded him as dumb is a nice way to put it, and I - there
46 will be lots of recordings of me with my own handlers where
47 Miechel is a topic of conversation because he, he's in my

1 top ten of the most incompetent police I've ever dealt with
2 in my life.

3

4 MR WINNEKE: Right. Now, any of those names that I've just
5 mentioned did you have mobile telephone numbers of?

6

7 MS GOBBO: Miechel no. Bartlett yes. Hall, Firth not
8 sure.

9

10 MR WINNEKE: Would you have recorded these numbers in your
11 diaries or anywhere?

12

13 MS GOBBO: Possibly, yes. They may well be on my computer
14 because that computer was backed up to the first iPhone I
15 had so it would have been - it syncs so they would be, they
16 would be on there.

17

18 MR WINNEKE: So it would come off your iPhone and be backed
19 up on to your computer so the details would be recorded on
20 your computer, is that right?

21

22 MS GOBBO: Correct, yes.

23

24 MR WINNEKE: I didn't mention **Police Officer 1**, was he
25 another person in Strawhorn's group?

26

27 MS GOBBO: Yes. Yes, he was.

28

29 MR WINNEKE: Did you have his number?

30

31 MS GOBBO: Yes.

32

33 MR WINNEKE: Did any of these people who I've just been
34 mentioning know that you were speaking to Wayne Strawhorn
35 do you believe?

36

37 MS GOBBO: Sorry. Did any of them know I was talking to
38 Strawhorn? I can't say, I can't say with certainty.

39

40 MR WINNEKE: Was it something that you were required to
41 keep - I'm sorry, go on?

42

43 MS GOBBO: Sorry. I can't say with certainty and if I was
44 to, if I was to conclude, yes, I couldn't say when as in
45 whether it was before Wayne Strawhorn's arrest or say how
46 long before Wayne Strawhorn's arrest.

47

1 MR WINNEKE: Yes. Just in relation to that, was it your
2 impression that your discussions with Strawhorn were
3 confidential to you and Strawhorn or was it something that
4 would have been known to other members of his inner circle?
5 I suppose it's a similar question to the one I asked you
6 before, but was there anything said between you and Wayne
7 which suggested that these other members might have known?

8
9 MS GOBBO: He gave me the impression, probably not
10 dissimilar to the way he came across to my clients, like
11 Kerry, that he was this almighty, all powerful controller
12 of his crew of police and so the impression I got was that
13 they were aware.

14
15 MR WINNEKE: Now, there have been a couple of people who
16 have made - perhaps I'll withdraw that. It's been
17 suggested that on occasions when a person was charged by a
18 member of the Drug Squad you would in effect be presented
19 as the person who was their barrister or their lawyer.

20
21 MS GOBBO: Yes.

22
23 MR WINNEKE: You know, when they were arrested in effect
24 you would turn up and advise them. If that's the case - or
25 do you accept that that did occur on occasions?

26
27 MS GOBBO: Are you - just to clarify, do you mean that the
28 Drug Squad referred people to me?

29
30 MR WINNEKE: That's what I'm getting to. Did that occur?

31
32 MS GOBBO: Not, not that I've got a specific memory or
33 example of because there were a couple of lawyers that the
34 Drug Squad - sorry, it was kind of a well-known fact at the
35 time that if - [REDACTED] was one and there was another
36 solicitor who, I just can't think of his name - - -

37
38 MR WINNEKE: [REDACTED].

39
40 MS GOBBO: They were the two - yes, [REDACTED] They were the
41 two, like if they were acting it usually, the crims came to
42 the conclusion that they were, that they were acting for
43 informers.

44
45 MR WINNEKE: What about, do you recall on any occasions
46 being introduced to people who'd been arrested in
47 circumstances where you hadn't been instructed by a

1 solicitor?

2

3 MS GOBBO: Yeah, I may have been instructed by a solicitor
4 but asked to go and see someone by another accused person
5 or by a client.

6

7 MR WINNEKE: Did David Bartlett, for example, contact you
8 and ask you to come and speak to a person by the name of
9 Rimond Kachab?

10

11 MS GOBBO: He may have but I, I thought that Rimond was
12 part of - I just can't remember whose crew, but I thought
13 he was part of the Mokbel crew.

14

15 MR WINNEKE: Right.

16

17 MS GOBBO: Sorry, what I'm trying to say is it was not
18 uncommon for me to go and see someone who was, had been
19 arrested or remanded on the basis of no solicitor asking me
20 to and no barrister asking me to but because another either
21 client or another drug dealer rang up and said, "My friend
22 or such and such has been arrested, can you go and see
23 them?"

24

25 MR WINNEKE: What about police, did you understand ever
26 that police officers would suggest you as a name for
27 someone who might speak to them, the person charged?

28

29 MS GOBBO: I can't recall any time that occurred because
30 the Drug Squad had - at least the understanding I had was
31 that they hated me. I'd be the last person they'd call.

32

33 MR WINNEKE: Was this during the period that you would be
34 speaking to Wayne Strawhorn?

35

36 MS GOBBO: Around that time and certainly by the time Wayne
37 Strawhorn was charged - sorry, the ESD investigation began,
38 I was not on their, I would not have been on their list of
39 people to ring. I think I was on their, the dart board in
40 their office.

41

42 MR WINNEKE: Yes, okay.

43

44 MS GOBBO: And they didn't regard me as someone who would -
45 they never regarded me as someone who - for example I
46 remember Miechel very early on having a go at me about
47 performing a (indistinct words) when they - - -

1

2 MR WINNEKE: You're just a bit muffled, Nicola, I can't -
3 it's coming across as a bit muffled.

4

5 MS GOBBO: Sorry. Is that better?

6

7 MR WINNEKE: Yes, that's better.

8

9 MS GOBBO: Could you just repeat that about David Miechel.
10 He didn't like you or he was not happy with you in relation
11 to a particular matter, I couldn't hear that.

12

13

14

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MS GOBBO: Yeah, just to try and put it into a time frame,
he was one, Bartlett was another, Police Officer 1 was another,
they - they didn't, didn't like me would be an
understatement and this is - they certainly disliked me
intensely after Tony Mokbel, after I started acting for
Tony, but even before Tony there was a dislike of me
because they took the view that, that being served with
subpoenas to produce material was a, was something that
they shouldn't have to do and kind of, you know, "How dare
you make us do all this stuff" or, "How dare you think that
you're entitled to this stuff".

MR WINNEKE: Perhaps if I can focus your attention then on
the period that Strawhorn was there, which ended I think in
about December of 2001.

MS GOBBO: Yes.

MR WINNEKE: Would it be the case that in that period
leading up to that time you might have had people referred
to you by members of the Drug Squad in his crew?

MS GOBBO: Possibly, although I can't remember anyone
specifically.

MR WINNEKE: Okay. All right then.

MS GOBBO: But I might, look, I might honestly read my 90,
for example, my 99/2000/2001 court books. There'll be, I'm
sure there'll be names in there that might assist my
memory.

MR WINNEKE: All right, okay. Just excuse me.

COMMISSIONER: Just while - sorry to take you back again to

1 Pope but - - -

2

3 MS GOBBO: That's all right.

4

5 COMMISSIONER: You were saying there were those episodes
6 where you were drinking with him in the pub before episodes
7 of intimacy.

8

9 MS GOBBO: Yes.

10

11 COMMISSIONER: Were there any other police officers present
12 on those occasions or was it just the two of you?

13

14 MS GOBBO: On a couple of occasions there were other people
15 around. Yes there would be, in the context of him being
16 somewhere and drinking and finding me there, I would never
17 be the instigator of any of it.

18

19 COMMISSIONER: Sure. But can you remember who else who
20 might have been there who would have seen you drinking with
21 Pope in the pub, that's what I'm asking you, any police
22 officers or other people?

23

24 MS GOBBO: I'm pretty sure that there was a Chris Lim, who
25 was his partner or offsider at one stage. I'm pretty sure
26 he was, he was present on at least one occasion. There was
27 Fraud Squad officer who I stayed in contact with, David
28 someone. He knew about Pope and I.

29

30 COMMISSIONER: David Bartlett would it be?

31

32 MS GOBBO: No, no, no, it was a - I know he was in that
33 crime course with me.

34

35 COMMISSIONER: It wasn't David Waters, was it?

36

37 MS GOBBO: No, no, not Docket, no, no. I keep thinking
38 David Foster but I don't think Foster's the right name.
39 Sorry, all I can say is it wasn't a - - -

40

41 COMMISSIONER: If you think of the name later - - -

42

43 MS GOBBO: It wasn't - yes. It wasn't a secret, you know,
44 a secret sneaking around, we didn't want to be seen by
45 anybody else. It was not that kind of a deal, it's just a
46 kind of, well, I'm drunk, you know (indistinct words).

47

1 COMMISSIONER: Sure, sure. I understand, but I'm just
2 wanting to know if you can remember anybody else who would
3 be able to support that. If you think of anybody could you
4 let your lawyers know and they can let us know. They can
5 tell us, all right?

6
7 MS GOBBO: Yes. I'm working through that, Commissioner, in
8 relation to last time we spoke I think you asked me about
9 any senior police that I'd had, or sorry, the most senior
10 police officers that I'd had conversations with and - so
11 when I'm awake at night and rethinking all this stuff, the
12 names come to me and I'm working my way through that but in
13 anticipation of getting access to some, copy of USB sticks
14 I can get them from my laptop and I can be more productive
15 for you.

16
17 COMMISSIONER: Sure. We'll see what we can do about that.
18 Okay, thanks. Yes, Mr Winneke.

19
20 MR WINNEKE: You mentioned David Foster.

21
22 MS GOBBO: Yes.

23
24 MR WINNEKE: Can you cast your mind back and tell us how
25 you know David Foster and what your connection with David
26 Foster is?

27
28 MS GOBBO: I was hoping that I've got the right surname,
29 that he is - he is or was a police officer I met in the
30 Fraud Squad.

31
32 MR WINNEKE: Right.

33
34 MS GOBBO: I've got the right name but I've got the wrong
35 surname.

36
37 MR WINNEKE: Your recollection may be pretty good but one
38 thing you did say to us when we first spoke was that your
39 recollection was that Pope was involved in the fraud
40 course.

41
42 MS GOBBO: Yes.

43
44 MR WINNEKE: In some way, shape or form. He says he
45 wasn't, never was involved in that fraud course. Now, do
46 you accept that you might be wrong about that?

1 MS GOBBO: Well I must have the time frames confused or I
2 must be, I must have in my mind overlapped him being at the
3 Fraud Squad to the fraud course. Maybe it was because he
4 ended up doing a, maybe it was like a cliché because was,
5 he ended up doing a law degree at La Trobe.
6

7 MR WINNEKE: Yes, doing a law degree and it appears - - -

8
9 MS GOBBO: Yes, so that might be what - - -

10
11 MR WINNEKE: Yes, and it appears that you were assisting
12 him with his course by providing notes on constitutional
13 law and something else I think it was.

14
15 MS GOBBO: Yes, even though, even though I didn't have,
16 according to him even though I didn't have any friendship
17 or relationship with him.

18
19 MR WINNEKE: All right. Now, David Foster you say would
20 have been aware of your relationship?

21
22 MS GOBBO: Yes.

23
24 MR WINNEKE: Why do you say he would have been aware of
25 your relationship?

26
27 MS GOBBO: If it's the same, if it's the David I'm thinking
28 of, that he was someone I was quite close to in that fraud
29 course and subsequent to that in the, in the years that
30 followed, and I mean I don't recall actually telling him
31 but it would have, it would have been obvious to anyone who
32 was ever drinking with us or who bumped into us drinking
33 together.

34
35 MR WINNEKE: Why would it have been obvious? And what do
36 you mean by quite close?

37
38 MS GOBBO: Because - pardon?

39
40 MR WINNEKE: What do you mean by quite close?

41
42 MS GOBBO: Well when I - I can recall, I can recall from
43 the course itself that he and I often sat together and that
44 if I missed, if I missed either a night at the course or
45 any part of it, that he was the person who I got notes
46 from, so when I say close, I mean we had a friendship,
47 nothing - didn't sleep with him, nothing inappropriate, but

1 - in that context. Like if there was one person who from
2 the course I would say I spoke openly to, it would have
3 been him and that extended beyond the course because I
4 don't think I knew him before then.

5

6 MR WINNEKE: Assuming you did the course - look, it seems
7 that David Foster in semester 1 of 2001 took a course
8 called legal framework at La Trobe in the course of, in
9 this graduate certificate in fraud investigation.

10

11 MS GOBBO: Yes.

12

13 MR WINNEKE: Might that be the situation, that he was in
14 fact a lecturer?

15

16 MS GOBBO: Could have been, yes, sorry. I'm just - unless
17 I've got the surname right but the wrong person, because
18 there was a Dave who I sat next to and shared, mutually
19 shared material with.

20

21 MR WINNEKE: Right.

22

23 MS GOBBO: But my recollection is that he was a police
24 officer, not a lecturer, although he could have been, some
25 of the lecturers were police officers.

26

27 MR WINNEKE: No, to be fair, he was a police officer. I
28 can tell you that as far as we know there were a number of
29 police officers who were either lecturers or tutors, if you
30 like. One of them was David Foster, another one was a
31 Mr Neil Jepson, VicPol. Another one who taught fraud
32 investigation was Robert Cockerell and another one called
33 Geoff Peck, P-e-c-k.

34

35 MS GOBBO: Yes, none of them sound, none of them sound or,
36 like it can ignite any memories as you're saying their
37 names.

38

39 MR WINNEKE: All right. But in any event David Foster
40 does, he appears, that does ring a bell?

41

42 MS GOBBO: Yes.

43

44 MR WINNEKE: Was he a friend of Pope's?

45

46 MS GOBBO: He was - my best recollection is that he was, I
47 don't know, a colleague or a (indistinct words), yes.

1

MR WINNEKE: You were aware or you know a police officer by the name of Peter De Santo?

4

MS GOBBO: Yes.

6

7

MR WINNEKE: When did you first - perhaps if I, rather than asking you that question, in what circumstances did you first come into contact with Peter De Santo?

10

MS GOBBO: I can't, I can't specifically recall. Only that, only that my - I do remember that after I first met him I thought he was like that character out of, out of the FBI, the name escapes me but he was like that detective who, who is a complete obsessive Evangelist type who chases down, chases the fugitive to the ends of the earth.

17

MR WINNEKE: Right. That doesn't assist you in recalling when you first met him or how you first met him?

20

MS GOBBO: No. I don't know. I know I had contact with him when, when Firth and Paton were arrested.

23

MR WINNEKE: Firth and Paton.

25

MS GOBBO: I think Steve Paton was arrested. I think I may have had contact with him before then because that, his investigation of the Drug Squad is what assisted in getting [REDACTED] and my knowledge of the fact of there being an investigation by ESD came from [REDACTED]'s instructions and [REDACTED] learned about that from [REDACTED]. Because prior to them being [REDACTED] at the same time in [REDACTED] they, my understanding is that they didn't know each other and that there were things that - [REDACTED] got [REDACTED] and then once there was sufficient evidence to show that there was going to be at that point an [REDACTED] in terms of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] of the Drug Squad investigation by ESD, that that enabled him to get across the line with [REDACTED] to [REDACTED].

41

MR WINNEKE: Right.

43

MS GOBBO: So I know that it would have been, definitely would have been some time in 2001, but I say that by reference to [REDACTED] date. I'm just not sure of when it would have been exactly or I can't say it was definitely

47

1 [REDACTED] that was my first introduction to De Santo but it
2 could have been somebody else.

3
4 MR WINNEKE: Let's assume that that's in 2001. Did you
5 understand that Peter De Santo was investigating the Drug
6 Squad?

7
8 MS GOBBO: Yes.

9
10 MR WINNEKE: That being the case, did you have meetings
11 with De Santo at any time about matters pertaining to the
12 Drug Squad?

13
14 MS GOBBO: I certainly had conversations with him a number
15 of times about the Drug Squad and about [REDACTED] I just can't
16 put a time frame on it or say where I met him.

17
18 MR WINNEKE: To be fair, you've consistently maintained you
19 first started acting for [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 2002, or
20 perhaps a bit earlier than that. Does that give you some
21 idea about when you first came into contact with Peter
22 De Santo?

23
24 MS GOBBO: It would. It's likely to be 2002 then rather
25 than the year before. I say that's the starting date for
26 [REDACTED] because that is the date upon which - I think I'd seen
27 him in custody prior to that date but as of [REDACTED]
28 that year he changed solicitors and I think [REDACTED],
29 [REDACTED] started acting for him along with myself and
30 initially [REDACTED] and then [REDACTED].

31
32 MR WINNEKE: All right then. Did you provide information
33 to Peter De Santo to assist him in his investigations into
34 the Drug Squad, do you believe?

35
36 MS GOBBO: Not that I can recall specifically but if he
37 asked me I probably would have told him. I know that there
38 was, I do recall that there was an issue with some of the
39 drugs that were, that were missing in Tony's brief of
40 evidence but they appeared in another, a completely
41 separate accused's brief of evidence and I can remember
42 raising that with De Santo.

43
44 MR WINNEKE: Did you ever speak to Peter De Santo about
45 Wayne Strawhorn?

46
47 MS GOBBO: I can't recall specifically but I wouldn't - I'd

1 be surprised if he hadn't been a topic from Peter's point
2 of view.

3

4 MR WINNEKE: Would you agree that you were on friendly
5 terms with Peter De Santo?

6

7 MS GOBBO: Yes.

8

9 MR WINNEKE: I take it you met him at the races at least on
10 one occasion, is that right?

11

12 MS GOBBO: Yeah, you've actually reminded me, I did bump
13 into him at Flemington, I just can't remember what day it
14 was. I think he was there, I think it may have been - look
15 it may have been when Tony was out because he was, there
16 was a bit of a joke about whether he was there following
17 Tony around.

18

19 MR WINNEKE: Okay. So it wasn't an agreed meeting at the
20 races?

21

22 MS GOBBO: No, no, no.

23

24 MR WINNEKE: All right then.

25

26 MS GOBBO: Those were the days of my being a VRC member and
27 believing that it was of significant value to my life to be
28 at the biggest race days in the racing carnival.

29

30 MR WINNEKE: Derby Day and Melbourne Cup Day.

31

32 MS GOBBO: Yes, and Oaks Day.

33

34 MR WINNEKE: Now can I ask you about Steve Alexander.

35

36 MS GOBBO: Yes.

37

38 MR WINNEKE: Steve Campbell, I apologise.

39

40 MS GOBBO: Yes. Yes, Alexander was his co-accused I think.

41

42 MR WINNEKE: Steve Campbell. Now you knew him, as I
43 understand it, way back when you came to the Bar?

44

45 MS GOBBO: Yes, very early, I think he was very early on in
46 my time as a barrister. I think I met him and started
47 going out with him in 1999 or - yeah, I just can't remember

1 exactly when but I'd say it was pretty early.
2
3 MR WINNEKE: In any event when you were a barrister?
4
5 MS GOBBO: Yes.
6
7 MR WINNEKE: And do you know where he was stationed at that
8 stage?
9
10 MS GOBBO: Armed Offenders Squad.
11
12 MR WINNEKE: Do you know and did you know of any of his
13 close mates at the Armed Offenders Squad?
14
15 MS GOBBO: Yes. What was his surname, because he ended up
16 being, he ended up facing trial himself or pleading guilty
17 or being found guilty. Someone Dabb, D-a-b-b. Rob Dabb.
18
19 MR WINNEKE: Rod Dabb. Anyone else?
20
21 MS GOBBO: I'm trying to think Armed Offenders Squad
22 because - sorry, I just moved the phone.
23
24 MR WINNEKE: That's okay.
25
26 MS GOBBO: Are you still there?
27
28 MR WINNEKE: Yes, still here. Hello.
29
30 MS GOBBO: Sorry. Better? Is that better?
31
32 MR WINNEKE: We can hear you, can you hear us?
33
34 MS GOBBO: Yes, now I can. Sorry. I just put the phone to
35 my ear by accident. Rob Dabb. I'm pretty sure I met -
36 sorry, I'm just trying to think of his name - the one I was
37 always afraid of, Glen Saunders.
38
39 MR WINNEKE: Right.
40
41 MS GOBBO: Through Steve Campbell but I just can't be sure
42 whether Saunders was at the Armed Offenders Squad when I
43 first met him.
44
45 MR WINNEKE: Right.
46
47 MS GOBBO: Having met David Waters I met - - -

1
2 MR WINNEKE: You met Dave Waters, what, through Steve
3 Campbell?
4
5 MS GOBBO: Yes, yes.
6
7 MR WINNEKE: What about Peter Alexander?
8
9 MS GOBBO: Again, through Steve, he was his close friend.
10
11 MR WINNEKE: Right.
12
13 MS GOBBO: And the same with, I'm pretty sure the same with
14 Saunders, that I met him through Steve.
15
16 MR WINNEKE: How did you meet Steve Campbell?
17
18 MS GOBBO: Purely through some Legal Aid case that I was
19 doing, he was the informant, and he asked me out.
20
21 MR WINNEKE: Was that a John Genis, G-e-n-i-s?
22
23 MS GOBBO: It could have, look it could have been.
24
25 MR WINNEKE: Was that a Legal Aid matter - - -
26
27 MS GOBBO: I thought there was on - - -
28
29 MR WINNEKE: Go on.
30
31 MS GOBBO: Yes, I thought there was - sorry, I thought that
32 there was, I thought the very first, the very first matter
33 in which I met Steve was a female, some female accused.
34
35 MR WINNEKE: County Court or Magistrates' Court?
36
37 MS GOBBO: Magistrates' Court.
38
39 MR WINNEKE: So your belief is that he's the informant,
40 you're acting for her, she's charged with robbery, I
41 assume, armed robbery?
42
43 MS GOBBO: I can't remember, it was something, a Legal Aid
44 case and he asked me to go for coffee with him afterwards
45 and we went to the Metropolitan Hotel just, you know, two
46 doors down from the Magistrates' Court.
47

1 MR WINNEKE: Yes. Was that, what, after the case had
2 concluded or after a mention or what?

3
4 MS GOBBO: Yes.

5
6 MR WINNEKE: After the case had concluded, was it?

7
8 MS GOBBO: I think so, yes.

9
10 MR WINNEKE: Might it have been after a contest mention?

11
12 MS GOBBO: Look, I can't, I can't remember - I can't
13 remember.

14
15 MR WINNEKE: That's okay.

16
17 MS GOBBO: I can't remember specifically. All I would say
18 is that I don't recall, I don't recall - if it's the female
19 I'm thinking of, and I think it's a female, not a male,
20 client, I don't recall her being out of custody because you
21 never wanted to be seen speaking to the police officer who
22 charged someone outside of the court building. I just have
23 a recollection that she was in custody for something but I
24 could be wrong.

25
26 MR WINNEKE: Okay. In any event you had a cup of coffee
27 with him afterwards and that was the commencement of a
28 relationship?

29
30 MS GOBBO: Yes. Yes, and then he, we exchanged phone
31 numbers and then started an off again/on again I would say
32 actual relationship as opposed to the casual sex on
33 occasion Pope situation.

34
35 MR WINNEKE: Okay. So this was a romantic relationship
36 which obviously involved physical intimacy and that went on
37 for some time, did it?

38
39 MS GOBBO: Yes.

40
41 MR WINNEKE: Where were you living at that stage, do you
42 remember?

43
44 MS GOBBO: I know I spent a lot of time at his house, which
45 was [REDACTED] or some street [REDACTED]
46 [REDACTED] And I was in - sorry, I think, I think [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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MR WINNEKE: All right. In [REDACTED]?

MS GOBBO: No, I think - actually [REDACTED] was a year or two and then - yes, he did come to [REDACTED], that's the [REDACTED] apartment, and he subsequently came to, I'm pretty sure he came to [REDACTED]

MR WINNEKE: How long did that relationship, the romantic relationship last?

MS GOBBO: Off and on with gaps in between for a couple of years.

MR WINNEKE: Now it appears that he was the informant in a matter, in two matters for the person I mentioned before, John Genis, G-e-n-i-s, which involved appearances I think on 7 December 99 and 11 February 2000, two matters.

MS GOBBO: Yes.

MR WINNEKE: Do you recall what that was about?

MS GOBBO: No recollection at all, sorry.

MR WINNEKE: And assuming he was the informant, would you have told your client or your instructing solicitor that you were in a relationship with the informant?

MS GOBBO: I doubt it. I highly doubt it. I've got no recollection of what John Genis was charged with or if it was a matter that was a contest or not.

MR WINNEKE: It was a plea in the County Court as far as we know.

MS GOBBO: I highly - I would doubt, I would doubt very much that I would have ever been in a situation where I was going to cross-examine or be in a position where I had to cross-examine Steve Campbell knowing that I had a personal relationship with him for any accused but I can't even remember what John Genis's matter was.

MR WINNEKE: It appears that on 7 December 99 there was a plea in which James Dowsley was the prosecutor, can't tell you before whom and Steve Campbell was the informant. And

1 on 11 February there was a plea in which Mr T P Bourke was
2 - Tim Bourke maybe or - no, it might have been a different

3 T P Bourke.

4

5 MS GOBBO: Yes.

6

7 MR WINNEKE: Do you know who that was?

8

9 MS GOBBO: I remember Tim Bourke as a former police
10 prosecutor barrister, yes - prosecutor.

11

12 MR WINNEKE: In any event it appears that there were two
13 matters. It may well have been part-heard but Steve
14 Campbell was the informant and there were hearings in the
15 County Court on 7 December and which James Dowsley was
16 prosecutor and then a second appearance on 11 February in
17 which Mr Bourke was the prosecutor. Ultimately what you
18 say is that you can't recall that?

19

20 MS GOBBO: No, only I imagine it was something that was not
21 contentious otherwise I wouldn't have been there.

22

23 MR WINNEKE: To be fair, it may have been a Magistrates'
24 Court matter, if it resolved at committal stage you might
25 have done a plea in the Magistrates' Court, but in any
26 event you can't recall a man named Genis?

27

28 MS GOBBO: No.

29

30 MR WINNEKE: I take it, as far as you were concerned so
31 long as you didn't have to cross-examine Steve Campbell it
32 wasn't necessary for you to disclose your involvement with
33 him to either your solicitor or your client?

34

35 MS GOBBO: No, and so long as there was nothing that - not
36 just cross-examine, so long as there was nothing that was
37 even disputed or that potentially favoured the accused in
38 terms of whatever the outcome would have been. I assume if
39 it was a plea that there weren't any instructions or
40 matters I was putting that would have put me in a position
41 where I couldn't be critical of the informant because if
42 there were I would have made my excuses and not been there,
43 as I subsequently had to do many times in my later years.

44

45 MR WINNEKE: One assumes that you'd be likely to discuss
46 the matter with Steve if he's the informant and you're the
47 barrister?

1

2 MS GOBBO: Depending upon - no, more likely to be - in
3 those days you were more likely to be talking to a
4 prosecutor, bearing in mind the way County Court pleas
5 happened at that time. I'm not saying I wouldn't have but
6 it probably depended upon what the actual, what it was
7 about and I've literally got no recollection of him.

8

9 MR WINNEKE: Do you think that there might have been other
10 cases in which he was the informant or perhaps friends of
11 his in the Armed Offenders Squad was or were the informant
12 in matters that you were involved in?

13

14 MS GOBBO: It could have been. I mean I don't want to
15 guess but I just, I just know that in later years when I
16 had to come up with all kinds of excuses for why I could
17 not appear for people who were charged because of my
18 informing, I - as pathetic as it sounds, I couldn't, I
19 couldn't be in a position of not being able to put whatever
20 instructions I had or, you know, whether it be to get
21 property back or pleas in mitigation in circumstances where
22 I couldn't be critical of whoever the informant was and in
23 years that followed I had to, I found myself in increasing
24 difficulty trying to come up with a reasonable explanation
25 that would be acceptable to the likes of Mokbel, Williams
26 and others in circumstances where they thought they had
27 some control over me or their perception was that they did.

28

29 MR WINNEKE: Because of Steve Campbell would you have been
30 friendly with his mates, for example, Robert Dabb?

31

32 MS GOBBO: Over time, yes, but not, not initially. But
33 over time, as people, as I guess I went to more things with
34 Steve - I mean it was, it wasn't a secret. His friends
35 knew, some of my friends knew.

36

37 MR WINNEKE: I take it you went out to pubs and drank with
38 him and his colleagues?

39

40 MS GOBBO: Yes.

41

42 MR WINNEKE: Do you recall which pubs you'd frequent with
43 him back in those days from 99, 2000 onwards?

44

45 MS GOBBO: There was a - I think it's now an apartment
46 complex, it used to be called the Hotel Canada or the
47 Canada Hotel in Carlton. There was, and there was also a

1 couple of places that I, that weren't my normal places that
2 I would go in Sydney Road, Brunswick, toward closer to

3 [REDACTED]

4

5 MR WINNEKE: How long did that go on for? I mean you've
6 said that the relationship went on for a period of time and
7 it was a romantic relationship. Firstly, how long did that
8 romantic relationship continue for?

9

10 MS GOBBO: I know there was the first, there was a first
11 number of months and months and then I think I wanted
12 something more serious. He didn't. And then - we didn't
13 end it acrimoniously, just - and he started seeing someone
14 else, I did as well. I can't recall precisely when. And
15 then there was another period - - -

16

17 MR WINNEKE: Are we talking six months or 12 months or
18 more?

19

20 MS GOBBO: More likely between six and 12. And then there
21 was another, another period of time in the - before he got
22 charged.

23

24 MR WINNEKE: And did that - - -

25

26 MS GOBBO: Because of him being charged with - sorry.

27

28 MR WINNEKE: You're all right.

29

30 COMMISSIONER: We've been going for a long time, Ms Gobbo.

31

[REDACTED]

34

35 COMMISSIONER: That's okay. So it might be better if we
36 wind it up sooner rather than later then. Are there any
37 questions you'd like - - -

38

39 MR WINNEKE: I've just got a couple more to follow through
40 with this.

41

42 COMMISSIONER: Can you just do a couple more questions and
43 then we'll wind it up? [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1
2 COMMISSIONER: Sure, sure. It's okay, we understand.
3 Okay, well thanks very much for your cooperation. We'll
4 end the telephone link now. Thank you.

5
6 M GOBBO: Thank you. ---
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