

ROYAL COMMISSION
INTO THE MANGEMENT OF POLICE INFORMANTS

STATEMENT OF Solicitor 2

My full name is Solicitor 2 I am an Australian Lawyer and director of the firm [REDACTED]

I have been asked to complete a statement in relation to my knowledge of;

- 1) The Management of conflicts in relation to Ms Gobbo's clients, and
- 2) The Management of conflicts in relation to my clients.

1)

From my recollection the only management of conflicts in relation to Ms Gobbo's clients I am aware of follows intervention by Justice King in 2005 stopping her from appearing on behalf of Mr Thomas [REDACTED] for the plea in mitigation. I understand this intervention was bought about as a result of Carl Williams writing to Justice King directly. Carl Williams forwarded me copies of the correspondence he sent to Justice King and various other persons/bodies in 2006 relating to conflicts of interest of which I have attached to this statement.

I am aware the Law Institute of Victoria responded to Carl Williams in relation to his complaint confirming that they had investigated his complaint and wouldn't take the matter further as Ms Gobbo had confirmed she was communicating with Mr Thomas [REDACTED] in a personal capacity.

2)

Including what Mr Williams asserts in the above letters about conflict issues the only management of conflicts in relation to my clients I recall related to Mr Andrews

Mr Andrews

I believe it was in 2006 when my then client Mr Andrews became a prosecution witness without my knowledge. I recall immediate communications with the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions due to my then conflict with continuing to act for Mr. Williams in relation to matters where Mr Andrews had implicated Mr. Williams.

I continued to act for Mr. Williams on matters where [REDACTED] wasn't a witness. Shortly after, I believe in April 2006, the matter was listed before Justice King (who was then coordinating and expediting the trial listings of Carl Williams matters) to confirm that I could no longer act for Williams in relation to two indictments. Given the necessity to facilitate the trials another lawyer at my firm who wasn't personally conflicted was permitted by Justice King to take over the matters involving Mr Andrews pending an ethics ruling that I requested.

Around this time Ms. Gobbo spoke to me on Lonsdale Street and asked that I write to Barwon Prison and request a joint professional visit with herself and her

client [REDACTED] and Williams and I. Ms Gobbo said that Mr [REDACTED] had requested the visit. [REDACTED] Mr Thomas

I wrote to Barwon Prison and requested this joint professional visit. Someone had advised Corrections Victoria that I had conflict of interest acting for Williams in any capacity and Barwon refused the joint conference. They confirmed that Ms Gobbo could attend and see Williams and [REDACTED] Mr Thomas

At a subsequent mention of the Williams matter before Justice King Ms Gobbo attended. The Prosecution raised with Justice King the joint visit I had requested and confirmed that Ms Gobbo knew nothing about it. Ms Gobbo maintained this in open court. Justice King prohibited me from having any communication with Williams until his next trial was concluded.

From police reports I have seen Ms. Gobbo specifically requests permission from Purana for this joint visit.

Conflicts of interests with lawyers at this time dealing with "gangland" matters was also strictly dictated by police issuing summons for the Australian Crime Commission whereupon permission to attend on behalf of any witness was required to ensure there was no conflicts. Obviously given these hearings were conducted under confidentiality orders lawyers often weren't aware of whether a conflict of interest existed.

[REDACTED]

Solicitor 2

16/6/19