

Royal Commission**into the Management of Police Informants****STATEMENT OF CHARLIE BEZZINA**

1. My full name is Charlie Bezzina. I am a retired member of Victoria Police.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 19 March 2019. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

Educational background and employment history (question 1)

3. I was a member of Victoria Police for 38 years.
4. I graduated from the Police Academy in 1973 and was then located at Russell Street Headquarters as a Constable undertaking general duties. A summary of my employment history since that time is set out below:
 - In 1974, I was a Constable at the Footscray Police Station. I was then promoted to Senior Constable and transferred to the Footscray Criminal Investigation Branch;
 - Between 1983 and 1985, I was located at the Altona North and Maidstone Police Stations and held the rank of Sergeant;
 - In 1985, I was promoted to Detective Sergeant and I transferred to the Bureau of Internal Investigations where I was in charge of the Covert Surveillance Unit for approximately 11 months;
 - Between 1986 and 1989, I was Detective Sergeant – Team Leader, in the Drug Squad;
 - In 1989, I transferred to the Homicide Squad and worked there until 1995;
 - In 1995, I transferred to the western suburbs as a Senior Sergeant and was upgraded to Inspector at times;
 - In mid-1996, I returned to the Homicide Squad as a Detective Senior Sergeant and remained there for 11 years;
 - In 2007, I was moved to the *Purana Taskforce*. I was there for no more than a week before taking extended leave;



- In 2009, I transferred to the 'Embona Taskforce' addressing major issues with armed robbery;
 - I retired from Victoria Police in December 2009.
5. The professional awards that I have received include the following:
- (a) National Police Service Medal;
 - (b) Victoria Police Service Medal;
 - (c) Three Commendations for outstanding work;
 - (d) Blue Ribbon Medal.
6. I am currently undertaking various consulting roles outside of Victoria Police.

Involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo (q 2)

7. The only investigation that I was involved in that, to my knowledge, had dealings with Ms Gobbo was the investigation into the murders of Terrence and Christine Hodson. I was the Senior Sergeant in the Homicide Squad who was on-call the night that the Hodsons were murdered on 16 May 2004. I went to the scene. I then had carriage of the murder investigation for some time.
8. As part of the investigation, on 1 July 2004, Detective Senior Constable Cameron Davey and I interviewed Ms Gobbo as a potential witness. This interview took place at the St Kilda Road Police Station.
9. I cannot now recall why Ms Gobbo was identified as a potential witness. I have a faint memory that it may have been because of an association with Tony Mokbel. I cannot recall what was discussed during the interview but I recall that Ms Gobbo did not provide any information of value to my investigation.
10. I did not have any further dealings with Ms Gobbo in relation to the Hodson murders.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (questions 3-8)

Question 3

11. I became aware of the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source through recent media reports.

Question 4

12. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Question 5

13. I have no knowledge of these matters.



Question 6

14. I refer to my answer to question 2 above.
15. The only other occasion on which I can recall having contact with Ms Gobbo was when she was in the presence of Mick Gatto. As I was leaving the Melbourne Magistrates' Court, Gatto was driving past and pulled over to speak to me. Ms Gobbo was with him in his car. I briefly spoke to Gatto while they were sitting in the car. I did not speak to Ms Gobbo directly. I cannot recall when this occurred.
16. I recall attending a social function at Crockett Chambers in Lonsdale Street on one occasion. I recall speaking to barristers Terry Forrest (now judge), Robert Richter, Phil Cummins (now retired judge) and others. I have no memory of seeing Ms Gobbo at that function but she may have been in attendance.

Questions 7 and 8

17. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Concerns in relation to Ms Gobbo and disclosure obligations (questions 9-11)Questions 9 to 11

18. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Other relevant mattersQuestion 12

19. I am not aware of any such human source.


Question 13

20. I completed numerous training courses at Victoria Police, including Detective Training School and specialist investigator courses. The matters listed in question 13 were all taught in the Police Academy and during Detective Training School. They are also matters learnt on the job which I always respected and upheld.

Question 14

21. I have nothing further to add.

Dated: 17 April 2019



Charlie Bezzina