

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

**STATEMENT OF PETER TRICHIAS**

1. My full name is Peter Trichias. I am an Acting Inspector of Police currently performing the role of Knox PSA Local Area Commander, Eastern Region Division 2.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 20 March 2019.
3. This statement is limited to my involvement in, and awareness of, Ms Gobbo's dealings with Victoria Police in 1993.
4. I will provide a further statement to the Royal Commission in relation to the period during which I performed duties at the Homicide Squad, Purana Taskforce and the Briars Taskforce.

**Educational background and employment history**

5. I have been a member of the Victoria Police Force for over 30 years, graduating from the Victoria Police Academy in August 1989. I have spent the majority of my policing career as an operational member. Over 20 of those years have been in criminal investigation, which has included 15 years in homicide investigations; performing duties at the Homicide Squad, Purana Taskforce and the Briars Taskforce.
6. In November 2015 I was selected to perform duties as Detective Senior Sergeant in charge of the newly formed Homicide Squad Cold Case Team, Crime Command. This is my current gazetted location.
7. A timeline of my police service history is as follows:
  - a) March 1989 to August 1989 - Victoria Police Academy. **Recruit Training.**
  - b) August 1989 to June 1990 - **Probationary Constables Extended Training Scheme (PCETS).**
  - c) August 1989 to September 1989 - City Patrol Group. **Constable**, performing general duties.
  - d) September 1989 to March 1990 - Oakleigh Police Station. **Constable**, performing general duties.
    - As part of PCETS performed duties at Oakleigh Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB), Bentleigh Community Policing Squad, Black Rock Traffic



Operation Group, Police Schools Involvement Program and Fingerprint Bureau.

- e) March 1990 to June 1990 - Clayton Police Station. **Constable**, performing general duties.
- f) June 1990 to November 1993 - City West Police Station. **Constable**, performing general duties.
- Including assignments at several investigative areas; City West CIB, and Russell Street CIB Fraud Investigation Group.
  - November 1992 to November 1993 – Assignment at the ‘Alpha’ District Support Group (DSG). Investigative and covert surveillance duties.
- g) November 1993 to December 1995 - St. Kilda Police Station. **Constable and then Senior Constable**, performing general duties.
- Including assignments at several areas; general duties at Prahran Police Station, and investigative duties at St. Kilda CIB.
- h) December 1995 to October 2000 - Carlton CIB. **Detective Senior Constable**, investigative duties.
- January 2000 to September 2000 – Assignment at the Melbourne Embona Robbery Task Force, investigative duties. Including higher duties as **Detective Acting Sergeant**.
- i) October 2000 to May 2003 - Homicide Squad. **Detective Senior Constable**, investigative duties. Including higher duties as **Detective Acting Sergeant**.
- j) May 2003 to June 2005- Purana Task Force. **Detective Senior Constable**, investigative duties
- Including higher duty assignments; **Acting Sergeant**, supervisory / general duties at the Ringwood Police Station for 4 months and **Detective Acting Sergeant**, supervisory / investigative duties at the Purana Task Force for 7 months.
- k) June 2005 to December 2006- Prahran Police Station. **Promoted to Sergeant**. Supervisory, general duties.
- Including higher duty assignment, **Acting Detective Sergeant**, supervisory / investigative duties at the Purana Task Force.
- l) December 2006 to April 2007- Purana Task Force. **Detective Sergeant**, supervisory / investigative duties.
- m) April 2007 to March 2008- Briars Task Force. **Detective Sergeant**, supervisory / investigative duties.



- n) March 2008 to March 2012 - Homicide Squad. **Detective Sergeant**, supervisory / investigative duties. Including higher duties as **Detective Acting Senior Sergeant**, management / senior investigator duties.
- January 2011 to January 2012 – Boronia Police Station. **Acting Senior Sergeant**. Higher duties assignment as second in charge at a 24 hour police station, general duties.
  - February 2012 to March 2012 - Eastern Region Division 2 Headquarters. **Acting Senior Sergeant**. Higher duties assignment, divisional project work.
- o) March 2012 to October 2013 – OIC Rowville Police Station. **Promoted to Senior Sergeant**. Performing duties as the Station Commander of a 24 hour police station, general duties.
- p) March 2013 to August 2013 – **Acting Inspector**, performing several assignment / higher duties roles including Knox Local Area Commander, Yarra Ranges Local Area Commander, ED2 Investigation & Response Inspector, Eastern Region Ethical & Professional Standards Officer.
- q) October 2013 to October 2015 – Purana Task Force. **Detective Senior Sergeant**, senior investigator / manager.
- r) Including assignment / higher duties as **Detective Acting Inspector**; OIC Purana Task Force & OIC Joint Organised Task Force.
- s) October 2015 to CURRENT – Homicide Squad. **Detective Senior Sergeant**, senior investigator / manager in charge of the Cold Case Team.
- t) Including assignment / higher duties as **Detective Acting Inspector**; OIC Homicide Squad & OIC Missing Persons Squad.
- u) December 2018 to March 2019 – **Acting Inspector**, higher duties assignment as the Knox Local Area Commander.
8. My educational background is as follows:
- a) 1986 - Year 12 HSC
9. I have completed the following Victoria Police training courses:
- a) 1989 - Constables Course
  - b) 1996 - Detective Training School # 169
  - c) 1999 - Tactical Communications Course



- d) 2002 - Arson Investigation # 20
- e) 2004 - Forced Building Entry Techniques # 101
- f) 2004 - Project Interpose Course, Intelligence Model
- g) 2007 - Investigation Management # 8
- h) 2008 - Diploma of Police Supervision 21475VIC
- i) 2009 - Discipline Investigation # 38
- j) 2009 - Investigative Interviewing Course (PEACE model)
- k) 2011 - Interview Adviser Course (external presentation by UK adviser)
- l) 2011 - Incident Command & Control Structure course (ICCS V2)
- m) 2012 - Senior Sergeant Qualifying Program #15
- n) 2015 - National '57<sup>th</sup>' Management of Serious Crime' Program (Canberra)
- o) 2016 - Specialist Suspect Interview Program #2
- p) 2016 - National Cold Case Homicide Symposium (Perth)
- q) 2017 - STAND Leadership Workshop
- r) 2018 - Senior Sergeant Development Program #27

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

10. I recall having contact with Ms Gobbo on 3 September 1993 during the execution of a search warrant at 250 Rathdowne Street, Carlton as part of Operation Yak.
11. At that time, I was a Constable of Police, performing duties at the 'Alpha' District Support Group (DSG). Investigative and covert surveillance duties.
12. I have a limited memory of these events and have refreshed my memory by referring to a commendation letter I received in relation to Operation Yak, together with a number of attached reports.<sup>1</sup>
13. Operation Yak was an investigation concerning the activities of Brian Wilson. A warrant had been obtained to execute a search warrant at 250 Rathdowne Street, Carlton. Sergeant Michael Holding was my crew sergeant and was in charge of the warrant. Sergeant Ashton's crew was also helping us out.

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<sup>1</sup> Doc ID: VPL.0005.0007.0123



14. During the execution of the search warrant, my attention was focused on Brian Wilson as I was principally dealing with him. I assume that other members of my crew would have dealt with Ms Gobbo.
15. I don't recall seeing Ms Gobbo until after the initial warrant and arrest had been executed.
16. I became the informant for Brian Wilson. I believe that Constable Suzanne Wilson from my crew became the informant in relation to Ms Gobbo.
17. I have no knowledge of Ms Gobbo providing information or assistance to police in relation to Operation Yak.
18. Brian Wilson, Victor Vellios and Ms Gobbo were each charged with drug related offences following the execution of the drug warrant. From memory, I believe all three pleaded guilty. I recollect that there was no evidence that Ms Gobbo or Mr Vellios had anything to do with the larger quantity of drugs that had been located at 250 Rathdowne Street, Carlton.

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

Question 3

19. I have no knowledge of Ms Gobbo providing information or assistance to police in 1993.
20. I only recently, since the announcement of the Royal Commission, learned that Ms Gobbo had been registered in 1995. I was surprised to learn this.

Questions 4 and 5

21. I have no knowledge of these matters in relation to 1993.

Question 6

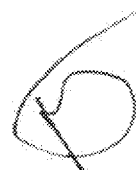
22. I refer to my response to question 2.

Questions 7 and 8

23. These questions are not applicable to the 1993 time period.

**Concerns in relation to Ms Gobbo (questions 9-11)**

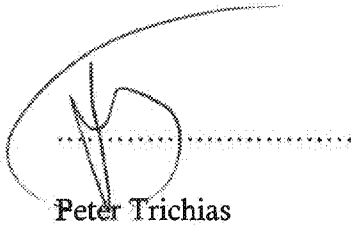
22. I have no knowledge of these matters relevant to the 1993 time period.



**Other relevant matters (questions 12-14)**

23. I will respond to these questions in my further statement to the Royal Commission.

Dated: 27 March 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' and 'T' intertwined. A horizontal dotted line extends from the right side of the signature.

Peter Trichias