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

STATEMENT OF RODNEY ANDREW ARTHUR

1. My full name is Rodney Andrew Arthur. I am currently a Detective Senior Sergeant of Police attached to Taskforce Salus, Professional Standards Command.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 19 March 2019.

Educational background and employment history

3. A summary of my employment history with Victoria Police and educational background and qualifications is attached to this statement as Appendix A.

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

4. I recall that I met with Nicola Gobbo on three occasions while I was a Senior Constable with the "A" District Support Group stationed at Russell Street.
5. While I can't remember the exact dates of these meetings, I believe they occurred during a 6 month period prior to 5 July 1995. I recall that they occurred prior to 5 July 1995 because I was stationed at Russell Street at the time of the meetings. The station at Russell Street then closed and we relocated to the Victoria Police Centre on Flinders Street.
6. I have no record in my diary or day book of these meetings.
7. I was first introduced to Ms Gobbo at short notice by Sergeant Trevor Ashton. The meeting took place outside the old Melbourne Magistrates Court, which was part of the same complex as the Russell Street police station. The meeting lasted around five minutes. I remember being told that Ms Gobbo was a law student and that her Dad was a judge.
8. Mr Ashton was my crew sergeant for a period of time during 1994 to 1995. I can't remember whether Mr Ashton was my crew sergeant at the time he first introduced me to Ms Gobbo.



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9. Some months later, I remember meeting Ms Gobbo with Mr Ashton on a second occasion at short notice. I believe this meeting also took place outside the old Melbourne Magistrates Court.
10. I remember meeting Ms Gobbo on a third occasion at short notice with Mr Ashton and Jeff Pope. I believe that the purpose of this meeting was to introduce Ms Gobbo to Mr Pope as he was transferring to the Carlton police station. I believe this meeting also took place outside the old Melbourne Magistrates Court. I recall that this meeting happened in the late afternoon. I recall that Mr Pope was in uniform, which I believe means that he had already transferred to Carlton by this time.
11. I am fairly sure that Ms Gobbo did not provide police with any information or assistance during these meetings. If she had, I would have made a note of this in my day book or diary.
12. I moved to the Victoria Police Centre on 5 July 1995. I did not have any contact Ms Gobbo after this.
13. I have been asked whether I ever worked at the MCG during 1994 or 1995 and whether I ever saw or met with Ms Gobbo at the MCG. I regularly worked at the MCG during that period. I do not ever remember seeing or meeting Ms Gobbo at the MCG.
14. In around 2006, when I was with the Armed Offenders Squad, I was an informant in a Country Court trial against six co-accused, including Mr Guariglia, who was represented by Ms Gobbo as a barrister. Ms Gobbo cross-examined me during the course of the trial. I otherwise had no contact with her at Court, other than potentially during discussions that may have occurred between Victoria Police, the Office of Public Prosecutions and all of the defence counsel, though I cannot recall any such discussions. To the best of my recollection, this is the only case I have been involved in, in which Ms Gobbo was a defence barrister.

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

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15. As set out above, I do not recall Ms Gobbo providing any information during the meetings I had with her. I believe that we would not have met Ms Gobbo in a public location like in front of the old Magistrates Court if she was a source.
16. I first learned that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria police when I learned about it through the media.

Questions 4 and 5

17. I have no knowledge in relation to these matters.

Question 6

18. I refer to my response to question 2.

Questions 7 and 8

19. I have no knowledge in relation to these matters.

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

20. I have no knowledge in relation to these matters.

Other relevant mattersQuestion 12

21. I have never registered, used or been aware of a human source who was subject to legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege.

Question 13

22. I have completed numerous training courses while employed by Victoria Police. The key courses I have completed are set out in Appendix A.
23. I do not recall all of the specific training I have undertaken while at Victoria Police, and do not have access to the specific topics covered in those courses. However, I recall receiving the following training or retraining in relation to the identified topics:



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- a) I received training in relation to disclosure obligations during Detective Training School, in Brief checking courses, and in training undertaken at the time the Criminal Procedure Act was introduced;
- b) I received initial training in relation to the right of an accused person to silence during Academy training, which has been continually reinforced, including as part of Detective Training School and specialist investigator courses.
- c) I received initial training in relation to the right of an accused person to a legal practitioner during Academy training, which has been continually reinforced, including as part of Detective Training School and specialist investigator courses.
- d) I received training in legal professional privilege as part of Detective Training School and in training conducted by the Crime Department.
- e) I received training in public interest immunity during informer management courses and likely during Detective Training School courses.
- f) I received initial training in professional and ethical training as part of Academy training, which has been continually reinforced in the Victoria Police Manual, the SELF test, internal investigation training and all supervisor/management training courses.

Question 14

24. I have nothing further to add in response to question 14.

Dated: 26 March 2019



Rod ARTHUR
Detective Senior Sergeant 27061

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Rodney Andrew Arthur

APPENDIX A

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION HISTORY

My name is Rod ARTHUR, I am currently a Detective Senior Sergeant of Police attached to the Victoria Police - Taskforce Salus – Professional Standards Command.

I have been a member of Victoria Police for the last 31 yrs having graduated from the Victoria Police Academy in 1988. Throughout my time with Victoria Police, I have spent the majority of my time in covert plain clothes policing roles and the field of Criminal Investigations. I have investigated all aspect of serious major crime, including murders, attempted murder, shootings, kidnapping, abductions, rapes, major drug operations, armed robberies, State and National Counter Terrorism Investigations and numerous other investigations.

Employment History:

Aug 1988 – Dec 1988 – Victoria Police Academy

Recruit Course attendance and graduation on 16/12/1988

Feb 1989 – Dec 1989 - Springvale Police Station

Operational Constable – All aspects of General duties uniform policing

Dec 1989 - Oct 1991 - Russell Street Police Station

Operational Constable – All aspects of General duties uniform policing.

Oct 1991 – June 1992 - Springvale Police Station

Operational Constable – All aspects of General duties uniform policing

June 1992 – Aug 1993 – “D” District Support Group

15 months secondment – plain clothes policing duties.

Mainly targeting drug trafficking within region and numerous targeted selected crimes such as Burglary response, licensing duties etc

Aug 1993 – May 1994 - "A" District - Russell Street Police Station

Operational Senior Constable – All aspects of General duties uniform policing

May 1994 – May 1996 - "A" District – Support Group

2 yrs secondment – plain clothes policing duties

6 months in the capacity of Acting Sergeant – running multiple crews

Mainly targeting high level drug trafficking within Melbourne city area and surrounding inner city suburbs. Also investigated underage prostitution matter relating to inner city brothels, unlawful gaming houses, armed robberies and numerous burglaries.

May 1996 – Dec 1996 – “A” District - Melbourne City Police Station

Operational Senior Constable (3 months in capacity of O/C Retail Theft Group)

All aspects of general duties policing – targeting burglaries, retail thefts etc.

Dec 1996 – Aug 2000 – “B” District – South Melbourne CIB

Criminal Investigation Branch – Investigator duties.

Investigated numerous rapes and other sex offence, armed robberies, serial burglaries, serious assaults, deceptions etc.

Aug 2000 – Dec 2002 – Dandenong CIU

Criminal Investigation Unit – Investigator duties. Including various upgrading duties within CIU and Uniform.

Investigated numerous rapes and other sex offence, armed robberies, serial burglaries, serious assaults, deceptions etc.

Dec 2002 – Jan 2004 - Dandenong Uniform Police.

Promotion to Sergeant – Operational General duties policing.

Supervision and performance of all aspects of uniform general duties.

Jan 2004 – Aug 2004 – Cranbourne Criminal Investigation Unit.

6 months secondment duties in capacity of Officer in Charge Cranbourne CIU - Acting Detective Sergeant. Criminal Investigation Unit – Officer in charge and Investigations management duties - Investigated numerous rapes and other sex offence, arson, armed robberies, serial burglaries, serious assaults, deceptions, multiple murder investigations etc. Managed approx. 30 staff.

Aug 2004 – Sept 2005 – Dandenong Regional Response Unit

2 yr secondment duties at Dandenong RRU – Plain clothes investigation duties.

Investigation of major covert drug investigations, serial burglaries, rapes and other sex offences, armed robberies, and other regional responses as required. Covert policing duties.

Sept 2005 – Sept 2006 – Crime Department – Armed Offenders Squad

Crime Department – Detective Sergeant (Promotion).

Supervisor / Investigator duties of all major crime – serial armed offenders and shooting related incidents. Targeted apprehension of violent serial armed offender throughout state of Victoria. Numerous interstate deployments for targeted arrests and extraditions etc.

Sept 2006 – Jan 2007 – Narre Warren Criminal Investigation Unit

4 mth Secondment at Narre Warren CIU – Detective Sergeant - Supervisor / Investigator - Criminal Investigation duties. Investigated numerous rapes and other sex offences, arson, armed robberies, serial burglaries, serious assaults, and attempted murder offences.

Jan 2007 – April 2009 – Crime Department

Detective Sergeant - Supervisor / Investigator - Criminal Investigation duties of major crime at Tasked Operations 500 and Crime Tasked Operations Units. Investigated and specialised in Kidnapping, abduction and life threatening extortion related investigations. Also further investigated numerous attempted murders, rapes and other sex offences, arson, armed robberies, serial burglaries, serious assaults.

April 2009 – February 2014– Secondment to AFP – Joint Counter Terrorism Team

Detective Sergeant - Supervisor / Investigator - Criminal Investigation duties of Counter Terrorism Investigations at JCTT. Team leader and Investigator duties. Investigation of major CT operations such as Op NEATH, FRASER, ASTON etc. During this time I also performed extended roles of upgrading in the capacity of Detective Acting Inspector (13 months in total) and performed SIO role for Victoria Police in relation to major CT investigations.

10th February 2014 – November 2017 - Counter Terrorism Coordination Unit

Promoted to Senior Sergeant - Senior Supervisor – project management

Undertook roles as CT Training, legislation reviews, CT course and project delivery and CT emergency response roles and specialist CT advisor roles. Also performed role as ANZCTC – VICPOL – Investigations Capability Representative from 2016/2017.

November 2017 to Current - Taskforce Salus

Initial - 12 mth Secondment to Taskforce Salus – PSC – Detective Senior Sergeant

Investigation of predatory behaviour, sexual harassment, sexual discrimination and sex offences committed by VICPOL employees. Taskforce created in response to VEOHRC findings. Appointed / transferred to permanent position in May 2018.

Performed additional upgrading roles as Detective Acting Inspector – workgroup manager and investigations manager during appointment to Taskforce

Education / Qualifications:

Successful Completion – Year 11 – Cleeland High School 1983

Successful Completion – Apprenticeship – Boilermaker / Structural Steel Engineer 1986

Victoria Police – recruit training course completion and graduation - 1988

Senior Constable Exam qualification / completion on 1992

Promoted to Senior Constable – 1993

Criminal Investigation Exam Completion – 1995

Promoted to Criminal Investigation Unit – 1996

Detective Training School qualification – 1998

Drugs, Law and Investigation Course completion – 1998

Arson and Explosive Investigation Course completion - 2002

Promoted to Sergeant – 2002

Supervisory Training Course completion (Sergeants) – 2003

Forced Building Entry Training Course completion - 2005

Advanced Detective Training Course qualification (Supervisors) - 2005

Islamic Awareness CT course - 2009

ANZCTC - Counter Terrorism Investigator Workshop qualified – 2009

ANZCTC - Advanced Counter Terrorism Investigator Program Qualified

ANZCTC – Counter Terrorism – Senior Investigation Officer Course qualified

Bomb Investigation Course – qualified

Tier 2 – Interviewing Course completion – 2010

Top Secret – Negative Vetting level 2 – Security Clearance

Charlie / Delta – Security clearances – Commonwealth / Defence

Promoted to Senior Sergeant – February 2014

Senior Sergeants Course Qualified

ANZCTC – VICPOL – CT Investigations Capability Representative - 2016/2017

Specialist Sexual Assault investigation Course Qualified – 2018

BQAC – SOCIT – Brief Checking qualified – 2018

Integrity Management Course qualified – 2018