Royal Commission

into the Management of Police Informants

STATEMENT OF TERRY FRANCIS PURTON

- 1. My full name is Terry Francis Purton. 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 (q 1)

- 3. I was a member of Victoria Police for 45 years.
- 4. I commenced with Victoria Police in 1972. I graduated from the Police Academy in that year and was first sent to Russell Street Headquarters as a Constable and then to Reservoir Police Station undertaking general duties. A summary of my employment history since that time is set out below:
 - In 1977, I was transferred to Fitzroy Criminal Investigation Branch for a few months and then to Broadmeadows Criminal Investigation Branch. I was promoted to Sergeant in 1981;
 - In 1982, I was a member of the Prosecution team at Preston for 12 months;
 - In 1983, I was promoted to Senior Sergeant and transferred to the Research Development department for eight months;
 - In 1988, I was promoted to Inspector and was a patrol officer at Pascoe Vale, Heidelberg and Broadmeadows;
 - In 1991, I transferred to IID/ESD (Ethical Standards) as Chief Inspector and Team Leader and then promoted to Superintendent of the Complaints and Corruption Division;
 - In 1999, I was in the role of Crime Superintendent, Region Four.
 - In 2001, I undertook a review of the Drug Squad and prepared a detailed report about the conduct and management of drug investigations and corruption and human source management;

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- In January 2002, I was promoted to Commander (Crime) at St Kilda Road Police
 Headquarters to run squads under Assistant Commissioner Simon Overland.
- In 2008, I transferred to 'Project Clarendon' which oversaw the training of crime scene investigators;
- In 2010, I transferred to Internal Audit where I remained for seven years;
- I retired from Victoria Police in April 2017, but continued to serve for a further two years as an unsworn member, including in the role of Director of the Discipline Inquiry Office;
- I have now retired from all roles within Victoria Police.
- 5. I have completed the following Victoria Police training courses and other qualifications:
 - Detective Training Course;
 - Advance Detective Training Course;
 - Prosecutors Course;
 - Inspectors Course;
 - FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, USA three month course (1996);
 - Graduate Diploma of Public Administration and Policing.
- 6. The professional awards that I have received are as follows:
 - National Police Service Medal;
 - Victoria Police Service Medal;
 - Police Conduct and Good Service Medal;
 - Australia Police Medal;
 - 35 Year Service Award.

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

7. I refer to my answer to question 3 below.

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

Question 3

8. For the purpose of preparing this statement, I have been provided with a bundle of all of the entries in my diary which refer to Nicola Gobbo. I have reviewed that bundle.

1.00

- 9. It appears from the bundle of diary entries that it was on 19 September 2005 that I became aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information and/or assistance to police. My diary records (page 51) that on that day I was informed that Ms Gobbo was to introduce an undercover operative to Tony Mokbel.
- 10. My diary also records (page 60) that on 26 September 2005, I attended a *Purana Taskforce* progress meeting at which there was discussion about Ms Gobbo being a registered human source. It appears from the diary entry that there was discussion about Ms Gobbo's motivation for becoming a human source and about welfare concerns. I cannot recall this meeting.
- 11. In relation to the other diary entries in the bundle that mention Ms Gobbo:
 - (a) the entries on pages 32, 267 and 60 record discussions at *Purana Taskforce* meetings;
 - (b) the entries on pages 290, 51, 65, 71, 74, 75, 77 and 140 record updates that were provided to me by members about operations and court proceedings;
 - (c) the entries on pages 156 and 162 appear to concern witness protection issues.
- 12. From about 2008 until I retired as a sworn member in 2017, I was also a member of the Witsec Steering Committee. The Committee was responsible for considering entry into the Witness Protection Program and the deregistration of human sources. The Committee did not sit on a regular basis. It sat when required. I did not attend every Committee meeting. Ms Gobbo was discussed at these meetings. She was discussed in the context of her potentially entering the Witness Protection Program.

Question 4

13. I refer to my answer to question 3 above.

Question 5

14. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Question 6

15. I have had no personal contact with Ms Gobbo

Questions 7 and 8

16. I refer to my answer to question 3 above.

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

Questions 9 to 11

17. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Other relevant matters (questions 12 to 14)

Question 12

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

Question 13

- 19. I completed numerous training courses at Victoria Police as detailed in my response to question 1.
- 20. The matters listed in question 13 were all taught in the Academy and during Detective Training School. They were also matters learnt on the job over my 45 years as a member.

Question 14

21. I have nothing further to add.

Dated: 6 May 2019

Terry Francis Purton