

Royal Commission**into the Management of Police Informants****STATEMENT OF WAYNE CHEESMAN**

1. My full name is Wayne Frederick Cheesman.
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 (Q1)

3. I joined Victoria Police on 29 June 1987 and graduated from the Police Academy in October 1987. A summary of the roles I have undertaken and my progression through the ranks is as follows:
 - a) On 7 August 1988, I was a Constable at the Mount Waverley Police Station.
 - b) On 16 October 1989, I transferred to the St. Kilda Police Station as a Constable. I was promoted to Senior Constable in around 1992.
 - c) On 30 December 1996, I was promoted to a Detective Senior Constable at the Prahran CIB.
 - d) On 18 June 2001, I was transferred to the Drug Squad as a Detective Senior Constable.
 - e) On 19 November 2001, I was promoted to Sergeant at the Prahran Police Station.
 - f) On 24 February 2003, I was transferred as Detective Sergeant of the Major Drug Investigation Division.
 - g) On 12 December 2005, I undertook a two year secondment from Victoria Police to another agency.
 - h) On 4 November 2007, I was a Detective Sergeant with the Homicide Squad.
 - i) On 1 January 2011, I was promoted Detective Senior Sergeant with the Echo Taskforce.
 - j) From 26 June 2017 to present, I have been a Staff Officer to Deputy Commissioner Patton.

4. I started with Victoria Police at age 20 after completing year 11. In 2006, I obtained my Master of Business Leadership at RMIT University.
5. I completed many training courses during my time with Victoria Police which I have referred to in further detail in Question 13 below.

Involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings in any way with Ms Gobbo (Q 2)

6. In the period from 12 May 2017 to 15 November 2018, I attended meetings of the *Operation Bendigo* Steering Committee in my capacity as Staff Officer to Deputy Commissioner Patton. My role was to provide secretarial support to the Steering Committee.
7. Save than for my involvement with *Operation Bendigo*, I do not recall having any involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

Question 3

8. I learned that Ms Gobbo had provided information or assistance to Victoria Police on around 12 May 2017, which is the date that I first attended a meeting of the *Operation Bendigo* Steering Committee. Shortly after the meeting on 12 May 2017, I had a discussion with Deputy Commissioner Patton in which he told me that Informer 3838 was Ms Gobbo.

Question 4

9. I have no knowledge of any member of Victoria Police or other organisation who was aware, prior to the end of 2012, that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police, other than information that I received as part of the *Operation Bendigo* Steering Committee.
10. On 12 February 2018, Neil Patterson provided me with a copy of a list of former handlers and controllers for Ms Gobbo at an *Operation Bendigo* Steering Committee meeting. I had no involvement in preparing the list. I was provided with the list for the purpose of uploading it to Interpose (the Victoria Police case management system), which I did. I would have looked at the list when it was provided to me, but I did not take note of the

names that appeared on it, and I do not recall the names any Victoria Police members that appear on that list.

11. I do not recall receiving any other document that recorded handlers or controllers, or other people who were aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information and assistance to Victoria Police.

Question 5

12. I have no knowledge of the authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Question 6

13. I met Ms Gobbo in around 2003, when I was a Sergeant in the Drug Squad. At this time, I was focussed mainly on targeting Asian drug trafficking syndicates. In this period, I would frequently attend the Magistrates' Court as an informant or as a witness in relation to my work with the Drug Squad.
14. I do not recall Ms Gobbo representing targets of my investigations and I do not recall ever being involved in a Court case in which she was briefed to appear. However, I frequently saw Ms Gobbo around the Court precinct.
15. Most of my interactions with Ms Gobbo were limited to a cursory hello. Occasionally, we would have a more detailed conversation, however, even these more detailed conversations were limited to small talk about how we each were and other trivial matters. I do not recall having any more than five or six of these more detailed conversations with Ms Gobbo in the period from 2003 to around 2007.
16. I recall one discussion with Ms Gobbo in which she was emotional and was crying. I do not recall why she was upset or what we discussed. I do not recall Ms Gobbo saying that she had fears for her safety or welfare. If Ms Gobbo had said so, or if she had said something of relevance to an operational matter, then I would have made a notation of this in my diary. I have reviewed my diary for the relevant period and have found no such record of this conversation.
17. Save than for this conversation, I recall Ms Gobbo being in good spirits whenever we spoke.
18. On 4 July 2007 I was in the County Court in relation to an unrelated matter. After my matter finished, I went to sit in Court for the hearing of a person who was suspected of

drug dealing. Ms Gobbo was acting for the accused. I sat in Court for around 50 minutes and then left. I had no discussion with Ms Gobbo on this occasion.

19. I have seen an email that I sent to Sergeant Robert Ridley of the Crime Theme Desk and Rick Burton on 14 October 2008 at 10.08am, which describes a conversation that I had with Ms Gobbo. While I don't recall the conversation, having reviewed this email, I believe that I must have had a discussion with Ms Gobbo at Court on around 13 October 2008.
20. I have reviewed my diary for 13 October 2008 and I can see that I was in the Magistrates Court in relation to a homicide investigation on that day. Ms Gobbo had no involvement in my homicide investigation. I made no note of my discussion with Ms Gobbo in my diary.
21. I do not recall speaking with Ms Gobbo on the telephone and I never saw Ms Gobbo socially.

Questions 7 and 8

22. I refer to my answers to questions 3 and 4, above.

Concerns in relation to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

Questions 9 to 11

23. As I was unaware that Ms Gobbo was used as a human source until 2017, I have no information to provide in response to these questions.

Other relevant matters

Question 12

24. I am not aware of any other human sources that have provided information or assistance to Victoria Police who were subject to legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege.

Question 13

25. I have not undertaken a detailed review of the Victoria Police courses I have completed and the content of those courses. However, I have done a number of Victoria Police training courses including; Detective Training School, Advanced Detective Training School, the Sergeant, Senior Sergeant and Inspector Qualifying Programs.
26. My recollection of the relevant training or retraining I have received is as follows:
- a) I would have received training on the obligation of disclosure to accused persons at the Academy. These concepts would have also been revisited during subsequent training courses and upon promotion.

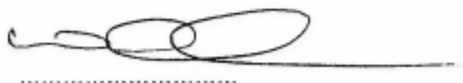
- b) I would have received training on the rights of an accused person, including the right to silence at the Academy. I also received further training relating to this concept at the Detective Training School. Such rights are a fundamental part of police work.
- c) I would have received training on the right of an accused person to a legal practitioner at the Academy and also at the Detective Training School.
- d) I don't recall when I received training on legal professional privilege, but it is likely that I would have received such training during the Detectives Training Course.
- e) I don't recall when I received training on Public Interest Immunity, but it is likely that I would have received such training during the Detectives Training Course.
- f) Professional and ethical decision making is a fundamental part of police work and is something that I would have received training on at the Academy, and have received on an ongoing basis throughout my career.

Question 14

27. I have been made aware of documents that appear in the Loricated database in relation to purported discussions between Ms Gobbo and me. In particular, a conversation in around September 2005, in which Ms Gobbo is purported to have told me that she was concerned for her welfare and that she wished to talk to police regarding her association with Mokbel. I have no recollection of Ms Gobbo saying these things to me. As I say in my answer to question 6, above, I do recall one discussion with Ms Gobbo in which she was emotional. But I do not recall her saying words to the effect that she feared for her welfare or that she wanted to talk to police about her association with Mokbel, or anyone else.

28. If Ms Gobbo had said something like this to me, then I would have made a notation of it in my diary. I have looked at my diaries from the relevant period and have found no such notation.

Dated: 14 May 2019



Name *Waipe Chikina*