Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants

STATEMENT OF MARK CHRISTIAN HATT

- 1. My full name is Mark Christian Hatt.
- 2. I am currently an Acting Inspector in the Southern Metropolitan Region.
- 3. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 23 May 2019. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

Educational background and employment history (Q1)

but did briefly speak to him.

4. I graduated from the Victorian Police Academy in 1994. Details of my progression through the ranks and training are contained in Annexure A to this statement.

Involvement or association with any investigation which dealt with Ms Gobbo (Q2)

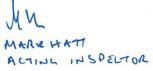
- 5. I was involved in investigations that dealt with Ms Gobbo when I was a member of the *Purana Taskforce*. I was at *Purana* from September 2003 to November 2004 and again from October 2006 to April 2010. During both periods, I investigated the numerous gangland murders that had been committed in Victoria.
- 6. My contact with Ms Gobbo related to investigations into murders committed by three individuals, REDACTED

 That contact related mostly to

7. On REDACTED 2003, REDACTED was murdered on REDACTED were arrested for that murder REDACTED At that time my crew was led by Detective Sergeant Stuart Bateson and included Detective Senior Constables Nigel L'Estrange and Michelle Kerley. 8. I processed and interviewed REDACTED after his arrest. I did not process or interview



was compliant, and I recall that, even



in the brief discussion I had with him, he said he might be open to assisting police. I do not remember the words he used but I recall from what he said that he seemed to be openly considering assisting police.

- 9. In the week prior to the murder, I had been involved in investigations relating to REDACTED, which included arranging listening devices and monitoring telephone intercepts. In the weeks that followed, I was also involved in follow up enquiries relating to the REDACTED murder.
- 10. On REDACTED 2003, members of my crew successfully applied to have taken out of remand for questioning about another crime, under the process in s 464B of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic). I was not present for this interview, but I was on duty that day to provide security. Either that day or shortly after, I became aware that members of my crew recorded providing information about redacted involvement in the murders of REDACTED as well as others' involvement in organised crime, including Tony Mokbel.
- 11. On REDACTED with copies of the recordings that had been made the week before.

 When the did not want to accept them because he did not want to have tapes like that in prison. I recall that was still cooperative and all indications to me were that he was willing to assist police, but he was concerned about his safety if others found out he was cooperating with police.
- 12. On REDACTED

 2004, I spoke with REDACTED

 Two days later on

 REDACTED

 2004, I executed a search warrant at REDACTED

 I recall that this warrant was to obtain evidence in relation to the REDACTED
- I was generally aware that more senior officers were talking to REDACTED about him cooperating, but I wasn't involved in these discussions. As my notes record, I visited REDACTED 2004. My notes from REDACTED 2004 set out how was already providing information and indicating he was willing to cooperate. I believed he was doing so because he wanted to negotiate a deal for a reduced sentence due to overwhelming evidence against him.

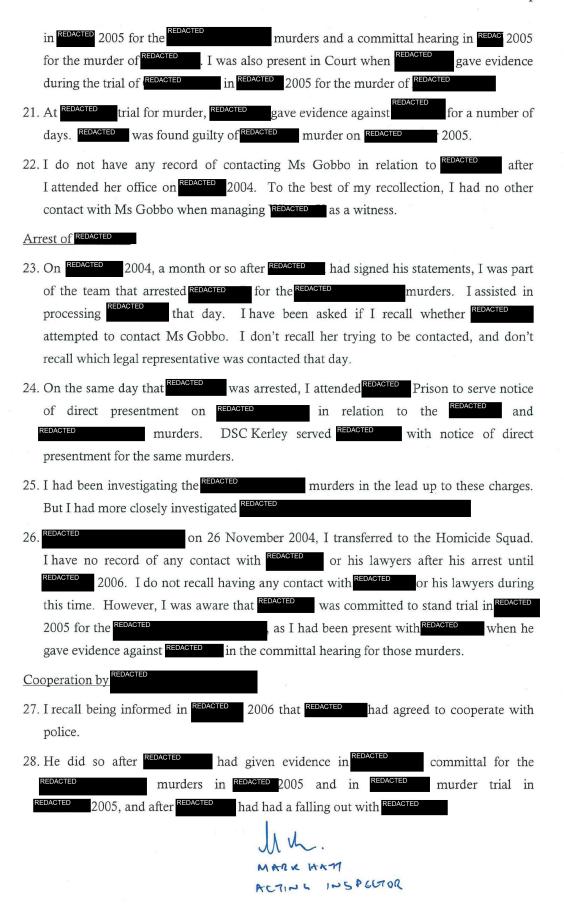
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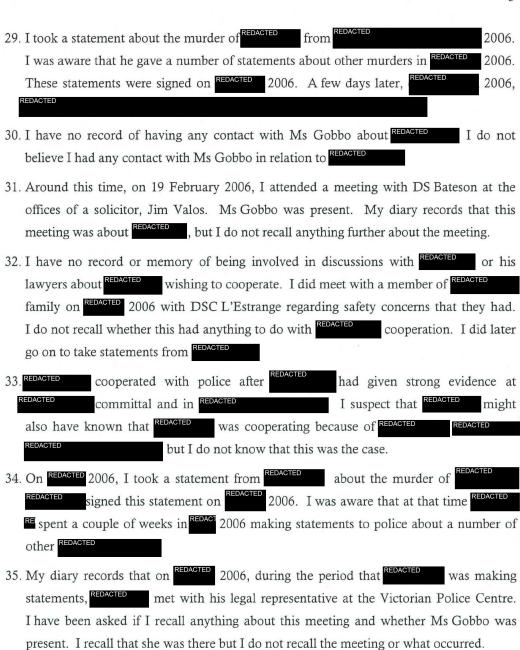
- 14. My notes for 16 February 2004 record that mentioned that he had spoken to Ms Gobbo, but do not recall what this was about. My notes also mention that said that a "bloke at top of tree splashes money on Nicola". Again, I believe this was a reference to Ms Gobbo, but I do not recall who else it referred to.
- 15. I don't recall if I had met Ms Gobbo by this time, but I had seen her around the Court precinct. Many within Victoria Police, including me, saw Ms Gobbo as being closely aligned with Carl Williams' and Tony Mokbel's "crews", in that she was a lawyer but also someone who was an active part of the criminal enterprises that *Purana* was trying to dismantle. I understood this also involved Ms Gobbo becoming close personal friends with organised crime figures.
- 16. On REDACTED 2004, I attended a committal mention for relation to the REDACTED murder. I saw REDACTED DS Bateson. I do not recall if Ms Gobbo was in Court that day.
- 17. On REDACTED 2004, I met with REDACTED regarding concerns REDACTED

 REDACTED

 REDACTED
- 18. From REDACTED 2004, I attended REDACTED Prison to take detailed statements from Concerning a 2004, I again visited to review those statements with him. He asked that Ms Gobbo review his statements before he signed them, and so DS Bateson arranged this with her.
- 19. The next day, I attended Ms Gobbo's office while she read copies of the statements. I remember feeling uncomfortable being in her office because I knew the clients she represented and was concerned, mostly for my own safety, that they might come by her office, as a coincidence or otherwise. Ms Gobbo suggested some minor changes to the statements. On REDACTED 2004, DS Bateson and I showed statements. REDACTED signed his statements on REDACTED 2004.
- 20. From then, I had contact with REDACTED throughout 2005 to address ongoing concerns he had about his safety and welfare in prison, as well as making arrangements for him to give evidence in subsequent hearings and trials. I also took a further statement from him in REDACTED 2005 regarding REDACTED murder. I was present with when he gave evidence at the committal hearings of REDACTED

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36. On 15 August 2006, I attended a meeting with the OPP (Geoff Horgan, Paul Coghlan and Andrew Tinney) with DS Bateson, DSC L'Estrange, DSC Kerley and AC Overland. My diary records that the meeting was about the status of the rial. I do not recall anything about the meeting. At the time, I was one of the Senior Constables in the team and do not recall having any specific responsibility at that meeting.

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Return to Purana and ongoing contact with

37. On 17 October 2006, I returned to *Purana* as a Detective Acting Sergeant to take part in Operation Pandora, which was the overall name for investigations into a number of different murders. That operation came about because of additional investigations that *Purana* had undertaken, as well as the statements made by both

REDACTED

It related to a number of historic murders linked generally through REDACTED

and included Operation

REDACTED

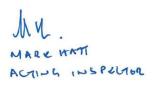
REDACTED

REDACTED

- 38. Based on the additional investigations and statements from we had identified a number of persons of interest in relation to some of the Operation murders. From the start of the operation, REDACTED were all key persons of interest in the Operation investigations.
- 39. Around the time I returned to Purana, I began having regular contact with about him giving evidence and to address issues about his safety and welfare in prison.

 Members of my crew and I had built a rapport with REDACTED and he ultimately insisted on speaking only to us because he said he trusted us. I also spoke to members of family about his and their safety and welfare on numerous occasions.

 On occasion, I spoke with Ms Gobbo about these issues to do with
- 40. At some points during this period, REDACTED would sometimes pass on information he had come across about other people and crimes. REDACTED was giving statements and evidence as a witness at this time and was not REDACTED
- 41. The contact I had with REDACTED members of his family and Ms Gobbo is set out in my diary for this period. I have provided additional information about some of these contacts below. I have dealt separately below with issues concerning Operation and other assistance that REDACTED 2009 and 2010.
- 42. On 14 November 2006, I spoke to REDACTED about a statement he had written about REDACTED. I do not recall who this was, and it could refer to a number of people with those initials. As my day book records, he had given a copy of the statement to Ms Gobbo and was concerned about how it would be collected from her without drawing attention to the fact he was cooperating with police. I told him that we would arrange to execute a warrant on her office to get the statement. I proposed executing a warrant to ensure the statement was lawfully obtained but also to protect REDACTED and Ms Gobbo's safety. The risk to



Ms Gobbo was if her associates found out that she was acting for when he was cooperating with police. Ms Gobbo called the *Purana* office later that day and I told her that we would arrange for a warrant to be executed to obtain handwritten statement.

- 43. I executed the warrant on Ms Gobbo's office on 7 December 2006 along with DS Dale Flynn. Ms Gobbo was present. I took possession of REDACTED statement. I had sought advice about how to properly execute the warrant from a Legal Advisor from Victoria Police, David Skelton. He also attended when the warrant was executed.
- 44. While I was executing this warrant, Ms Gobbo informed me that she had received threats by text message. I began making enquiries about these threats that day, including obtaining copies of her phone records and fingerprinting the phone box from where the messages were sent. The investigations did not identify a suspect. I was not aware that Ms Gobbo received further threats after this.
- 45. On 21 November 2006, I spoke to Ms Gobbo and she volunteered information about concerns for her safety from Carl Williams and Milad Mokbel. My day book includes a reference to DS Bateson referring to Ms Gobbo's "handler", which may have been a reference to a human source handler. I do not have a clear recollection of when I first suspected Ms Gobbo was a source, but I recall that I suspected this sometime in 2006. I do not recall if I was ever explicitly told that she was a source around this time, but I suspected this was the case because of pieces of information like this.
- 46. On REDACTED 2007, I went to Prison to speak with REDACTED about arrangements for his safety. My diary records that later that day, documents were delivered to Ms Gobbo as REDACTED solicitor. I don't recall what they were, but I suspect they related to the issues about REDACTED safety that I had discussed with him earlier that day.
- 47. My diary records that on 14 March 2008, I attended a meeting with members of the Source Development Unit regarding Ms Gobbo with DS Kelly and DS Buick. I have been shown a record⁴ that suggests this meeting related to SDU concerns about a surveillance unit contacting the Purana office in a way that might disclose the fact that Ms Gobbo was a human source. I do not recall the meeting, but do not dispute what is set out in that document. Based on this record, I believe I was aware by this time that Ms Gobbo had acted as a human source.

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⁴ VPl.0016.0046.0341.

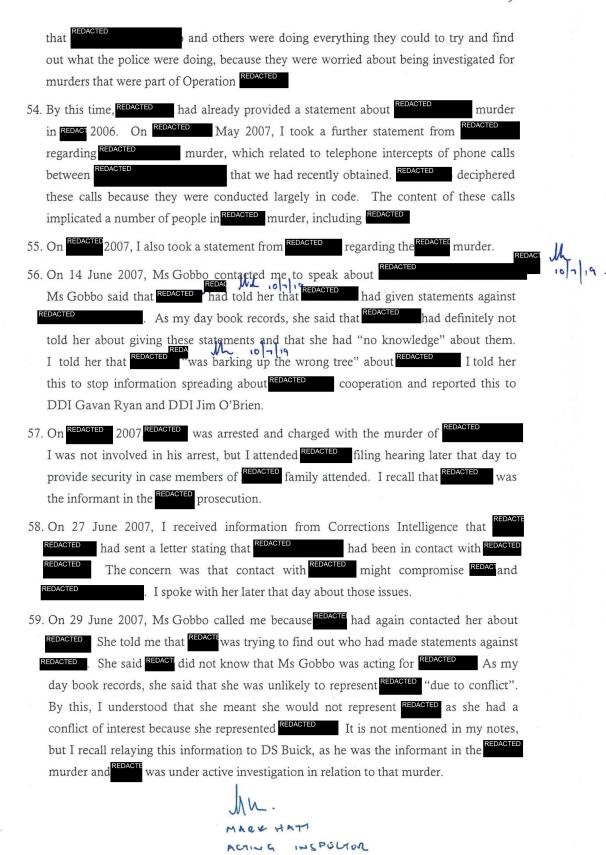
- 48. During 2008, I received information from the SDU about Gatto on a few occasions. For example, on 8 October 2008, my diary records that I spoke with DS Bourne⁵ from the SDU and that he provided me information regarding Gatto and Michael Choucair, who was the former owner of the restaurant where Veniamin was shot dead. I do not believe that the SDU members identified the source of this information when it was provided, as I recall the SDU members were very careful not to disclose the identities of sources when passing on intelligence.
- 49. On 5 February 2009, when speaking with REDACTED about welfare issues and his upcoming court dates, he supplied information about a relative of Mick Gatto. That information is set out in my diary. At the time, Gatto was an active person of interest in the Operation REDACTED investigations.

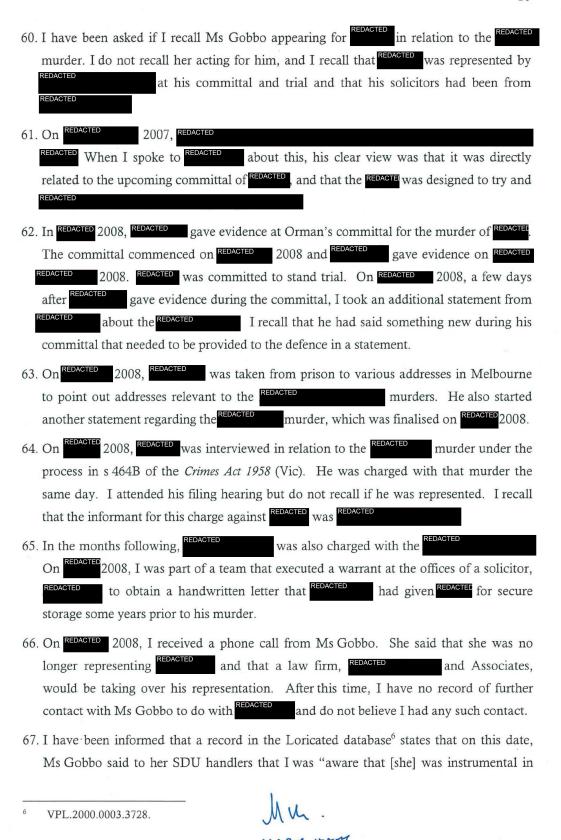
Operation REDACTED , Operation and Operation REDACTED and Operation

- 50. As set out above, I was involved in Operation REDACTED once I returned to *Purana* in October 2006. That overall operation included a number of more specific investigations. I was involved in Operation REDACTED which was an investigation into the REDACTE 2002 murder of REDACTED I was also involved in Operation REDACTED which was an investigation into the REDACTED 2002 murder of REDACTED which was an investigation into the
- 51. Initial investigations into REDACTED murder indicated he had been murdered after REDACTED had been shot dead in REDACTED had been acting as at the time. By REDACTED was killed, REDACTED was killed, REDACTED and actively making enquiries about who had killed REDACTED At that time, REDACTED
- 52. On 4 December 2006, I received a phone call from Ms Gobbo about a meeting she had with REDACTED had arranged to meet her for coffee a few days earlier and that REDACTE had also been present. She said the conversation had been very strange and that they had not mentioned REDACTED who said that REDACTED and REDACTE would "be testing her". I understood this to mean that REDACTED and REDACTE were fishing for information about what she knew about what REDACTED had told police.
- 53. I believe Ms Gobbo was telling me this because I was managing and I had asked her to pass on information that might affect his safety. As set out above, I had spoken to her on occasion about REDACTED safety and welfare. I knew around this time

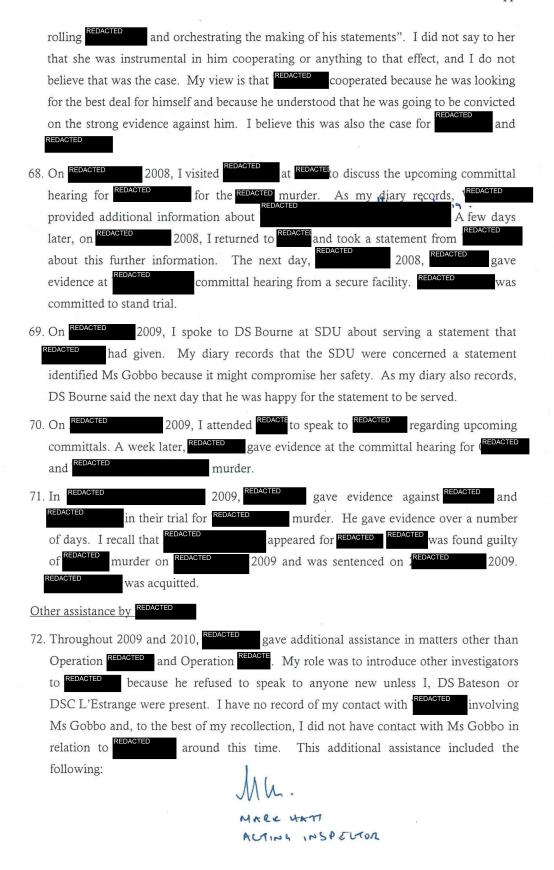
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⁵ Exhibit 81 (pseudonym list).





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- (a) On REDACTED 2009, I visited REDACTE with REDACTED who wished to speak with about assisting the Petra Taskforce.
- (b) During REDACT 2009, I was present with While he gave evidence in relation to drug offences by REDACTED I made arrangements around then for REDACTED to provide supplementary statements to correct earlier statements he had made.
- (c) In REDACTED 2010, REDACTED was taken out of prison to provide statements to REDACTED about the murder of REDACTED . I assisted both times.
- (d) In REDACTED 2010, REDACTED provided information regarding other incidents in prison. That information is recorded in my diary.
- 73. Around this time, I left *Purana* in April 2010 to be part of the team that developed the Sex Abuse and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCIT). In the years following, I had intermittent contact with REDACTED about his welfare and safety. I recall none of this contact involved Ms Gobbo.

How I learned, or were given reason to believe, Ms Gobbo was providing information (Q3)

74. As set out in my response to Question 2, I believe that I began to suspect that Ms Gobbo was a human source during 2006. It appears that I was aware that she was a source by March 2008 but I do not recall how I came to know this was the case.

Awareness of others (Q4)

75. The diary records I have reviewed in preparing my statement suggest that DS Bateson, DS Kelly and DS Buick may have been aware that Ms Gobbo was a human source. But I do not know how or when they came to be aware of that.

Authorisation of the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q5)

76. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Personal contact with Ms Gobbo (Q6)

77. I refer to my answer to Question 2. The only contact beyond this was once in the last two years when I was attending Port Philip Prison and she was there visiting a prisoner. I recall that she said hello to me, but that we did not have a further conversation.

Information & assistance received (Q7 & Q8)

78. I refer to my response to Question 2.

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Concerns raised as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source (Q9)

79. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Concerns raised as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q10)

80. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Awareness about disclosure in relation to Ms Gobbo (Q11)

81. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Other human sources with obligations of confidentiality or privilege (Q12)

- 82. My diary records that by 8 October 2008, I was aware that REDAGTED had spoken to the SDU and that there was a recording of what they had spoken about. I recall I wanted access to that recording for investigative purposes, but SDU did not allow me access to it.
- 83. I did not know then, and do not know now, the extent of REDACTED contact with the SDU or whether was ultimately registered as a human source.

Training (Q13)

- 84. My recollection of the relevant training or retraining I have received on these specific topics is as follows:
 - (a) Obligation of disclosure I have learned about this initially in the Academy and later in Detective Training School (DTS), and then from my experience running trials and working with the OPP;
 - (b) The right of accused person to silence and to a legal practitioner These topics were covered in the Academy and DTS, as well as on the job experience whenever arresting an individual.
 - (c) Legal professional privilege some training and I have repeatedly dealt with it in the course of my duties.
 - (d) Public interest immunity I have dealt with the issue of public interest immunity numerous times in the course of my duties, relating to police methodology, ongoing investigations as well as the identity and existence of human sources. Usually, where these issues are raised in court, we would engage the VGSO to assist with PII arguments.
 - (e) Professional and ethical decision making this was covered generally in the Academy and DTS, but I have also dealt with it more specifically when completing

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a Disciplinary Investigation Course for professional standards complaints and inquiries.

Other information (Q14)

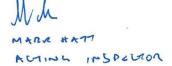
85. I have nothing further to add.

Dated: 17 June 2019

Mark Christian Hatt

Annexure A

- 1. A summary of the major roles I have undertaken and my progression through the ranks is as follows:
 - (a) In 1994, I graduated from the Victoria Police Academy.
 - (b) Between 1994 and 1997, I held the rank of Constable and was stationed at police stations in St Kilda and St Kilda Road.
 - (c) In 1998, I was promoted to Senior Constable and stationed at St Kilda police station.
 - (d) In 1999, I was stationed at Elwood Regional Response Unit.
 - (e) In 2000, following a 12-week training period, I was promoted to the rank of Detective Senior Constable and was stationed at St Kilda Criminal Investigation Unit.
 - (f) In September 2003, I commenced temporary duties at the Purana Taskforce.
 - (g) In November 2004, I commenced working at the Homicide Squad.
 - (h) In October 2006, I commenced temporary duties as a Detective Acting Sergeant at the *Purana Taskforce*.
 - In April 2010, I was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant at the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team Project.
 - (j) In 2012, I returned to the Homicide Squad as a Detective Sergeant.
 - (k) In 2016, I was promoted to the rank of Detective Senior Sergeant at the Southern Metropolitan Region Crime Team. I am currently an Acting Inspector in the Southern Metropolitan Region.
- 2. I have undertaken Victoria Police qualifications and training including Detective Training School (2001) and Advanced Detective Training School (2010), as well as formal programs upon promotion to Sergeant and Senior Sergeant. I have also completed a Disciplinary Investigation Course (~2008) and a Diploma of Frontline Management (Chisholm) (2009).
- 3. The professional awards that I have received include:
 - (a) Victoria Police Service Medal (2004);
 - (b) Chief Commissioner's certificate for leadership, outstanding commitment to duty, dedication, teamwork. Patience, perseverance and investigative skills as a member of the Purana Taskforce (2006);



- (c) National Service Medal (2010); and
- (d) National Police Service Medal (2016).

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