

[REDACTED]

29th September 2019

[REDACTED]
Minter Ellison
Level 23,
Rialto Towers
525 Collins St
MELBOURNE

Via email:
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir

Re: Nicola Gobbo
DOB: 16/11/1972

Thank you for your request for a supplementary report regarding Ms. Gobbo. In order to provide further information to the Royal Commission, I have spoken with Ms. Gobbo via telephone recently.

She reported that she is in a parlous state and that she has deteriorated in her overall function since February 2019 due to the trauma she [REDACTED] suffered at the hands of Victoria Police. Ms. Gobbo noted that she was at times very "wound up" in February-March 2019 and read emails and media and text messages [REDACTED] but now feels that her cognitive function has deteriorated over the ensuing months and that she has nothing to say and could not cope with the 1000s of pages of recordings and pages of evidence. She stated that her week at the moment is taken up [REDACTED] and attending appointments with her health professionals (one per week) and that she [REDACTED] with little [REDACTED] or support.

In terms of her mental state she reports low mood, helplessness and hopelessness and poor concentration and memory problems. She reports that she does not watch TV due to poor concentration. She feels [REDACTED] [REDACTED] She ruminates about her loss of motivation and energy, her anger at the police, and her poor mental health. I asked her about her day-to-day life. She reported that she wakes to the experience of overwhelming facial pain and symptoms of trigeminal neuralgia and teeth clenching. Her pain increases as the day goes on. She is with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] it takes her two hours to sleep herself as she turns over and over her situation in her mind. She has been told by her health professionals that she should be in hospital. She has been prescribed medications for depression, anxiety and pain by her psychiatrist and pain physician. She has no [REDACTED] support, no [REDACTED] no self-esteem, no [REDACTED] she cries most days and feels that her brain cannot function normally.

[REDACTED]

Answers to your questions:

1. Is Ms. Gobbo capable of giving evidence before the Commission in her current [REDACTED] and will she be Capable of giving evidence in the future [REDACTED]?

Ms. Gobbo is not capable of giving evidence before the Commission [REDACTED] and her incapacity to do so is indefinite. Her pain syndrome and mental state appear to be at the same or worse state than when I first met her in 2010. Her energy and motivation are poor and any functional capability she has is [REDACTED]. She reports cognitive slowing, memory difficulties and concentration problems. She is not reading to any great degree stating that she can't hold the material in her mind (encoding difficulties). She would not be able to cope with giving evidence, remembering events from 13+ years ago or reading the volume of documents that would be required to give evidence.

2. Do you think Ms. Gobbo is feigning any symptoms relevant to your assessment of her capacity to give evidence in light of a suggestion said to have been made in the following exchange concerning a prior occasion on which she was to appear for a client

I read the passage concerned to Ms. Gobbo who noted that she had never not given evidence and that the circumstances in this passage were related to the facts at that time which were that if she appeared it would reveal her informer status. She noted that she was trying to convey to Mr. Smith her concern about what would happen when the person who they were speaking of was arrested and she was exposed as an informer.

In terms of feigning illness, I have treated Ms. Gobbo since 2010. Her medical conditions have been consistently treated as bona fide medical problems by (specialist) doctors who she saw episodically and by those who saw her regularly over some years. I received letters from many of these doctors regularly updating me as to Ms. Gobbo's physical difficulties. None of them mentioned feigning illness as a problem.

I was in regular contact with her [REDACTED] physician [REDACTED]. We both agreed that Ms. Gobbo's presentation was consistent with Major Depressive Disorder, Pain Disorder (thalamic), and PTSD. I saw no evidence of her feigning illness in 8 years of psychological treatment.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

