

Royal Commission**into the Management of Police Informants****STATEMENT OF ANTHONY MICHAEL BIGGIN**

1. My full name is Anthony Michael Biggin. I am a retired former member of Victoria Police, having attained the rank of Superintendent and I reside at an address known to the Royal Commission.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants.
3. This statement is limited to my involvement in matters raised in the statement of Paul Noel Dale dated 20 May 2019.
4. I will provide a further statement to the Royal Commission in relation to the period during which I performed duties managing the Division that included the Source Development Unit.
5. In preparing my statement, I have reviewed my official police diaries for the period from 2002 and 2003 and refer below to diary entries.

Educational background and employment history (Q1)

6. I joined Victoria Police on 5 February 1973 and retired on 14 July 2018, having last worked on 9 May 2016.
7. After joining Victoria Police, I graduated from the Police Academy on 10 May 1974.
8. The roles that I held and my progression through the ranks is set out in Annexure A to this statement. I have also included in that annexure training that I have received.

My involvement or association with any investigation that had dealings with Ms Gobbo (Q2)

9. I do not recall Ms Gobbo being a human source while I was attached to the MDID¹ (between January 2002 and August 2005). I do not recall ever meeting or having any conversation or direct dealing with Ms Gobbo. My involvement in or association with

¹ Major Drug Investigation Division

matters in which Ms Gobbo was involved was through the DSU/SDU² and will be addressed in my further statement to the Royal Commission.

10. I was not aware that Ms Gobbo had been a human source for the Russell Street District Support Group and only became aware of this through media reports.

Allegations in relation to Terry Hodson

11. I have been briefed in relation to paragraphs 25, 26 and 32 of the Statement of Paul Noel Dale dated 20 May 2019, provided to the Royal Commission, particularly in relation to events in 2002 to 2003 relating to Terry Hodson. There are two matters raised in those paragraphs to which I wish to respond.
12. The first matter is that, at paragraphs 25 and 26, Mr Dale describes notifying me and Detective Senior Sergeant James O'Brien that Ms Gobbo had suggested to Mr Dale that she knew that Terry Hodson was an informer for the MDID. At that time, I was Officer in Charge of the MDID.
13. My recollection of that event is as follows:
 - a) I recall Mr Dale saying to me words to the effect that "*I think Gobbo knows that Hodson's the source*";
 - b) I conducted a review of the registration of Terry Hodson as a human source. As a result of this review, on 20 December 2002, I allocated code 4/456 as Mr Hodson's source code and closed code 4/390, which had been his previously allocated code;
 - c) I made a diary note on 20 December 2002, which records that:
 - (i) I spoke to Mr Dale at 1650;
 - (ii) Hodson's informer ID, 4/390, was de-registered and he was re-registered with informer ID 4/456;
 - (iii) the re-registration was "*re exposure to Court proceedings in order to protect identity & welfare*";
 - d) On 4 July 2003, I asked Acting Inspector Adrian White to undertake a risk assessment of the relationship between Hodson and the MDID. This was completed.

² Dedicated Source Unit, later named the Source Development Unit

14. The second matter is that Mr Dale refers, at paragraph 32 of his Statement, to Terry Hodson purchasing approximately \$20,000 of ecstasy tablets.
15. My recollection of that event is as follows:
 - a) Terry Hodson had been a human source, recruited when he was arrested in relation to the former Drug Squad's Operation Kayak;
 - b) I was notified that Mr Hodson had, without warning and without authorisation, purchased a quantity of ecstasy tablets. While I cannot recall the precise amount, I believe it was significantly less than 5,000 tablets;
 - c) Mr Hodson was indebted in the amount of approximately \$20,000 as a result of the purchase and sought to be reimbursed by the police in exchange for his ongoing assistance;
 - d) arresting Mr Hodson at the time would have put an end to the important role he was playing in providing valuable information to police;
 - e) it fell to me to assess how to deal with this situation. After consideration of the matter, including a recommendation as to further action, I authorised Mr Hodson to sell the tablets, strictly on the terms that he could sell the tablets, but only to the extent of his \$20,000 indebtedness; he was not permitted to make any profit on the sale;
 - f) my recollection is that the sale would be monitored with a view to obtaining intelligence that may be used in future investigations;
 - g) the authorisation pursuant to section 51 of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* (Vic) was recorded in writing. I have not had the opportunity to review that document prior to making this statement;
 - h) I do not recall instructing Mr Dale not to take notes of any meeting. His statement to this effect is false. In fact, the authorisation was formally documented, including in a report prepared I believe by Jim O'Brien.

Questions 3 to 5

16. I will respond to these questions in my further statement to the Royal Commission.


Personal contact with Ms Gobbo (Q6)

17. I have never met nor ever had any conversation or direct dealing with Ms Gobbo.

Questions 7 to 14

18. I will respond to these questions in my further statement to the Royal Commission.

Dated: 14 June 2019



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Anthony Michael Biggin

Annexure A

1. The following is a summary of the roles I held and my progression through the ranks:
 - a) I graduated from the Police Academy on 10 May 1974 and was attached to Russell Street Police station, where I performed general duties until August 1974;
 - b) from August 1974 until November 1977, I performed general duties at Prahran Police Station and temporary duties with the Criminal Investigation Branch;
 - c) from November 1977, I performed general duties across the state with the Independent Patrol Group;
 - d) from March 1979 to August 1981, I performed investigative duties at the Flemington Criminal Investigation Branch (CIB);
 - e) from August 1981 to July 1983, I performed investigative duties at St Albans CIB. I also performed temporary duties with the Arson Squad, Northern Metropolitan Regional Crime Squad and Airport CIB;
 - f) from July 1983 to October 1985, I was promoted to Sergeant at the Avondale Heights Crime Car Squad, where I performed duties as a Team Leader, in charge of the Special Duties Squad. I also performed temporary duties at a CIB Task Force investigating large-scale heroin trafficking;
 - g) from October 1985 to November 1987, I was a Team Leader involved in task force style policing at the Tactical Investigation Group, Crime Department, mainly in relation to commercial drug trafficking;
 - h) from November 1987 to August 1988, I performed supervisory and investigative duties at Preston CIB. I also performed temporary duties at the Rape Task Force (before the formation of the Rape Squad);
 - i) from August 1988 to June 1989, I was promoted to Senior Sergeant at the Missing Persons Bureau, where I performed supervisory and Officer in Charge duties;
 - j) from June 1989 to December 1990, I performed investigative and Officer in Charge duties at the Prison Liaison Squad;
 - k) in December 1990, I was promoted to Inspector at the Internal Security Unit, Investigations Department (now Professional Standards Command), where I performed investigative duties;

- d) in 1994 and 1995, I performed temporary duties at "A" District Headquarters at Russell Street, where I performed Duty Officer Duties and was upgraded at Acting Superintendent;
 - m) in May 1995, I returned to the Internal Security Unit, where I performed Team Leader duties for Operation Bart;
 - n) in 1996, I was promoted to Chief Inspector and returned to the renamed Corruption Investigation Division (previously Internal Security Unit) in 1998, where I performed Team Leader and investigative duties. I also performed temporary duties with the Use of Force Project as the Project Lead;
 - o) in November 1996, I was promoted to Superintendent at Region 3, Division 5, Mildura Headquarters, where I was in charge of the largest geographic and most remote division in the state;
 - p) in January 2002, I returned to the newly formed Major Drug Investigation Division, Crime Department as the Officer in Charge;
 - q) in August 2005, I transferred to the Covert Support Division of the Intelligence and Covert Support Command. Units under my control were the Special Projects Unit, the State Surveillance Unit, the Technical Surveillance Unit and Undercover Unit. The Dedicated Source Unit (later, the Source Development Unit (SDU)) reported to me in its pilot form, and also to the Superintendent, State Intelligence Division. From 1 July 2006, the SDU reported solely to me;
 - r) from 14 February 2010, I was appointed to manage the Surveillance Services Division, a new division within the Intelligence and Covert Support Command, consisting of the State Surveillance Unit and Technical Surveillance Unit;
 - s) from 9 May 2016, I took long service leave and officially retired on 14 July 2018.
2. My educational background is as follows:
- a) educated at Ararat High School until 1972;
 - b) tertiary studies at Charles Sturt University, completed in 2001.
3. Throughout my police career, I completed Victoria Police courses and qualifications including:
- a) Detective Training School;
 - b) Advanced Detective Training School;
 - c) Officers' Course (Inspectors' Program);

- d) Advanced Officers Course;
- e) Executive Leadership Course.