

**Royal Commission  
into the Management of Police Informants**

**STATEMENT OF CHRISTINE NIXON**

1. My full name is Christine Nixon.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants. This statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

**Educational background and employment history (Q1)**

3. I was the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police for eight years, between April 2001 and March 2009. I replaced Neil Comrie. I was succeeded by Simon Overland.
4. The Chief Commissioner is the Chief Executive Officer of Victoria Police and is responsible for the management and control of the organisation. The role includes implementing the policing policy and priorities of the Government and providing advice and information to the Minister on the operations of the organisation and policing matters generally. The Chief Commissioner is responsible to the Minister for the general conduct, performance and operations of Victoria Police.
5. When I became the Chief Commissioner in 2001, Victoria Police was an organisation of about 12,000 people with a budget of close to \$1 billion. By 2009, the organisation had grown to about 14,000 people located across 500 locations, with a budget of about \$1.7 billion.
6. Prior to becoming the Chief Commissioner, I was an Assistant Commissioner with the NSW Police Force. I set out below my work history during my employment with the NSW Police Force:
  - (a) I joined the NSW Police Force in October 1972 and from then until 1976, my duties comprised traffic management, criminal investigation work and lecturing.
  - (b) Between 1976 and 1978, I undertook general operational duties.
  - (c) Between 1978 and 1984, I was based in the Policy section of the Education Development Branch.
  - (d) Between 1984 and 1986, I took study leave to attend Harvard University.



- (e) Between 1986 and 1989, I was the Senior Policy Advisor to the Commissioner of Police.
- (f) In 1989, I was Acting Chief Inspector in the Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch.
- (g) Between July 1989 and January 1990, I had a role with the Commissioner's Office at Scotland Yard, London Metropolitan Police.
- (h) In 1990, I was located in the Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch.
- (i) Between 1991 and 1992, I was the Chief Inspector in the Education Evaluation Branch.
- (j) Between 1992 and 1994, I was a Superintendent in the Specialist Operations Education Branch.
- (k) Between 1994 and 1997, I was the Assistant Commissioner in the Human Resources and Education Departments.
- (l) Between 1997 and 2001, I was the Assistant Commissioner in Region Command, Western Sydney, Northern Sydney and South Eastern Region NSW.

7. I hold the following qualifications:

- (a) Honorary Doctor of Laws, Macquarie University, 2010.
- (b) Honorary Doctorate of the University of Ballarat, 2009.
- (c) Honorary Doctor of Laws, Monash University, 2005.
- (d) Honorary Doctorate of Letters, Wollongong University, 2003.
- (e) Foreign & Commonwealth Office Scholarship, UK, 1989.
- (f) Aspen Institute, Executive Management Course, 1986.
- (g) Harkness Fellowship of the Commonwealth Fund of New York, 1984-86.
- (h) Research Fellow: Program in Criminal Justice Policy & Management, (Harvard), 1985-6.
- (i) Master of Public Administration (Harvard), 1984-5.
- (j) Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy and Politics (Macquarie), 1981-3.
- (k) Diploma in Labour Relations and Law (Sydney), 1979-80.



(l) Certificate in Personnel Administration, 1974-77.

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

8. My role as Chief Commissioner did not involve investigative work or being briefed on the day to day operational work being undertaken by investigators.
9. When I started in the role as Chief Commissioner, the reporting structure was a traditional one. My recollection is that I had three people reporting to me, namely two Deputy Commissioners (one in Specialist Operations and the other in Operations) and an Executive Director of Corporate Services. There were then a number of Assistant Commissioners who reported to the Deputy Commissioners. Each Assistant Commissioner was responsible for a specific department within Victoria Police.
10. The two departments that seem most relevant to the work of the Royal Commission were the Intelligence and Covert Support Department and the Crime Department.
11. The Intelligence and Covert Support Department was responsible for, amongst other things, managing human sources. The Human Source Management Unit and the Source Development Unit were units within a Division of the Intelligence and Covert Support Department.
12. The Crime Department was responsible for criminal investigations.
13. The Assistant Commissioners overseeing both of these Departments reported to the Deputy Commissioner of Specialist Operations.
14. In about 2003, I made a change to open up management at the Commissioner level. I moved from the traditional model of Assistant Commissioners reporting to Deputy Commissioners, to a structure that had Commissioners at both levels working together, and all Commissioners having a direct reporting line to me. There was a Corporate Committee on which all Commissioners and myself sat. Commanders were to also report directly to me rather than to the Assistant Commissioners. The structural change was designed and implemented with the assistance of an expert external organisation.
15. Therefore, from about 2003 to 2006, the Deputy and Assistant Commissioners responsible for the Intelligence and Covert Support Department and the Crime Department reported directly to me. Commander Dannye Moloney also reported to me when he was in charge of Intelligence and Covert Support Department. When Simon Overland became Deputy Commissioner, we established a Board to be responsible for



- the Crime Department. It was known as the Crime Management Board. It was overseen by Simon Overland but also reported to me.
16. From about 2003, Simon Overland was the Assistant Commissioner of the Crime Department. My recollection is that he had a Commander and a number of Superintendents reporting to him who were overseeing different investigations within the Crime Department. Members at the rank of Inspector then reported up to the Superintendents. The role of a Commander in a department was a role that I did not consider to fit sensibly within the department structure and I tried to phase it out over time. The responsibilities of the role were unclear and there was a lot of cross over between the role and the role of Superintendent.
  17. In about mid-2006, Mr Overland was promoted to Deputy Commissioner (Specialist Operations). My recollection is that it was around this same time that I was starting to transition back to the traditional reporting structure of Deputy Commissioners reporting to me and Assistant Commissioners reporting to the Deputy Commissioners in some areas. In some cases, Commanders also resumed reporting to Assistant Commissioners.
  18. I received high level briefings from Mr Overland, in both his role as Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, about investigations being conducted within the Crime Department, including the investigative work being undertaken by the Purana Taskforce. I would be briefed on matters such as a significant arrest. I would also be briefed about any intersection of crime and corruption identified in an investigation.
  19. I was not briefed on the detail of the investigations within the Crime Department. The investigation crews, comprising members at different ranks, were across the detail of their investigations and members would brief up. The Superintendents overseeing investigations were expected to have an overview of the investigative work being done. It was expected that they would brief up to AC Overland about key aspects of the investigations and he could provide direction where required.
  20. I cannot recall if there was a Superintendent overseeing the Purana Taskforce and reporting to AC Overland. If there was then I cannot recall who it was. If there was not, then the Inspector would have reported directly to Mr Overland.
  21. I have been asked if I recall being briefed by anyone about the Purana Taskforce receiving intelligence that had been provided by Nicola Gobbo. I do not have any recollection of that. I am informed that a review of relevant documents is so far consistent with my recollection.



22. I recall that at some point I was briefed about Ms Gobbo being a witness in the prosecution of former police officer, Paul Dale, in relation to the murders of Terrence Hodson and his wife. I expect that I was briefed about that matter because of the intersection of crime and corruption. I remember knowing that Ms Gobbo had a personal relationship with Mr Dale. I do not recall knowing that Ms Gobbo had been a human source prior to becoming a witness. My recollection is that I became aware of that when it became public. I am informed that a review of relevant documents is so far consistent with my recollection. It is possible that Ms Gobbo had been referred to by her source number at some stage in a briefing, but I do not recall that. If that occurred, then I would not have known the source's identity in any event.
23. I was also a defendant in Ms Gobbo's civil action against Victoria Police about her role as a witness. I understood that I was named as a defendant only because I was the Chief Commissioner at the relevant time. At the time of the proceeding, I had left Victoria Police. I was informed about the proceeding, but I do not recall having any involvement in it. My recollection is that the proceeding was handled by Victoria Police's internal lawyers who instructed the Victorian Government Solicitors Office. I am informed that a review of relevant documents is so far consistent with my recollection.
24. I have been asked if I recall being briefed about Ms Gobbo having given a statement for the Briars investigation. I do not have a recollection of knowing that she had provided a statement and I am informed that a review of relevant documents is so far consistent with my recollection. If I was informed about that matter, then it would probably have been because that investigation involved the intersection of crime and suspected corruption.

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

25. I refer to my response to question 2 above.
26. I have been asked if I have any recollection of being contacted in relation to Neil Comrie's review, the IBAC investigation or the proceeding that went to the High Court about Ms Gobbo. I do not have any recollection of being contacted. I am informed that a review of relevant documents is so far consistent with my recollection.

**Knowledge of others and authorisation of the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (Q4 and Q5)**

27. I have no knowledge of these matters. I refer to my response to questions 2 and 3 above.



**Personal contact with Ms Gobbo (Q6)**

28. I do not believe that I have ever had contact with Ms Gobbo.

**Information & assistance, concerns and disclosure (Questions 7 to 11)**

29. I have no knowledge of these matters. I refer to my response to questions 2 and 3 above.

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

30. Shortly after commencing at Victoria Police, I was introduced by an Assistant Commissioner of the NSW Police Force to ex-police officer Kerry Milte as a person who may be able to provide relevant information to Victoria Police. Victoria Police's dealings with Mr Milte were the subject of an OPI enquiry and it was widely reported. Mr Milte was a lawyer. I cannot recall if he was a practising lawyer at the time he was introduced to me and when Victoria Police had dealings with him. I recall him being a University lecturer in Criminal Law in Sydney. To the best of my recollection, the concerns about Victoria Police's dealings with him had nothing to do with him being a lawyer with legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege. In preparing this statement, I have not refreshed my memory about the detail of this matter. If the Royal Commission considers it to be relevant to its work, then Victoria Police will be able to provide any relevant documents and I will seek to provide any information sought.

31. I otherwise have no knowledge of the matter enquired about at question 12.

**Training (Q13)**

32. I would have received training about the topics identified in question 13 during my time at the NSW Police Force.

**Other information (Q14)**

33. Shortly after I commenced as the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, I commissioned the Purton Review of the Drug Squad. I would have been provided with his final report.

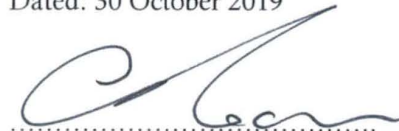
34. The Drug Squad was disbanded because of corruption. There were a number of arrests of Drug Squad members. The Drug Squad was replaced by a new division called the Major Drug Investigation Division (**MDID**). I had wanted the MDID to be a completely new division that did not include any members from the old Drug Squad. However, that became impossible following The Police Association's involvement. Paul Dale and David Miechel were members of the old Drug Squad and they transferred



across to the MDID. They were later arrested in relation to corruption offences. This was an unfortunate development for the organisation, especially because of the efforts that had been made to clean up the drug area.

35. During my time as the Chief Commissioner, I also commissioned the re-development of human source management which ultimately resulted in a recommendation to me that a Source Development Unit be implemented to manage high risk sources. A team was set up to investigate best practices. I commissioned this work because I believed that obtaining intelligence from citizens was a critical and necessary part of solving crime, but I also understood that the use of sources was a high-risk area. Obtaining assistance from citizens is a critical part of the fundamental principles upon which policing is based. These principles are known as Sir Robert Peel's Principles of Policing. I wanted to make sure that the organisation was using best practice in its management of sources. There would have been an Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner overseeing the re-development work.
36. My view about the importance of obtaining intelligence from citizens also drove me to try to have a Crime Commission introduced in Victoria. It was another means of gathering information to solve crime. I eventually got an office of the Chief Examiner.
37. If the Royal Commission would like any further information from me about the above matters, or any other matter, then I would be pleased to provide such information.

Dated: 30 October 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Nixon', written over a dotted horizontal line.

Christine Nixon