

Royal Commission  
into the Management of Police Informants

STATEMENT OF DR CHARLES LEIGH GASSNER APM

1. My full name is Charles Leigh Gassner.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 27 August 2019. This statement will be produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

Educational background and employment history (question 1)

3. I joined Victoria Police as a recruit in 1973. A summary of my employment history since that time is set out below:
  - a) Upon graduation from the Academy in 26 October 1973, I commenced general duties at the rank of Constable at Russel Street Police Station;
  - b) I then continued general duties at Collingwood, Box Hill and Ringwood Police Stations;
  - c) On 26 October 1978, while at Ringwood Police Station I was promoted to Senior Constable;
  - d) On 13 September 1979, I transferred to Nunawading Crime Cars;
  - e) On 25 January 1979, I transferred as Detective Senior Constable to the Crime Department and worked at Camberwell and Ringwood Criminal Investigation Branches;
  - f) On 6 June 1982, I was promoted to Sergeant at Fitzroy Police Station;
  - g) On 24 January 1985, I transferred to the Sub-Officer's Course as an instructor;
  - h) On 6 June 1986, I returned to detective duties as a Detective Sergeant at the Fraud Squad;
  - i) On 25 August 1987, I was promoted to Senior Sergeant in-charge of Port Melbourne Police Station;
  - j) On 9 June 1988, I returned to the Sub-Officer's Course as a senior instructor before being promoted to Inspector in the role of Staff Officer to the Assistant

Commissioner of Research and Development, Bill Robertson, on 4 February 1989;

- k) On 16 January 1991, I transferred with former AC Robertson to Personnel Department;
  - l) On 6 April 1992, I undertook the Officer in Charge position at the Sergeant's Course at the Police Academy;
  - m) On 29 November 1993, I transferred at rank to the Operations Planning Unit of the Operations Department where I later took promotion to Chief Inspector in-charge of that Unit on 18 September 1995;
  - n) On 8 August 1997, I was promoted to Superintendent and transferred to the Service Improvement Program where I was Project Director for the Local Priority Policing and Regionalisation initiatives, which were major structural and service delivery reforms to policing in Victoria. I was promoted to Commander whilst in this position on 3 February 1999;
  - o) On 5 April 1998, I was asked to run the internal audit function of Victoria Police which was re-formed into the Corporate Management Review Division;
  - p) On 11 December 2000, I transferred to manage what was then Region 1, which included all of the city, inner city and suburban areas, and south eastern suburbs;
  - q) On 1 December 2002, I was promoted to Assistant Commissioner of Region 2, which included all of the western suburbs and rural areas, spanning to the South Australian border. It was during this time that I became the corporate sponsor for the police response into violence against women;
  - r) On 5 December 2005, I became the Assistant Commissioner of the Education Department where I remained until leaving Victoria Police on 3 February 2008; and
  - s) Since leaving Victoria Police I have been practicing as a consultant in a private practice. In addition to this, in 2013 I was asked by the Victorian Government to consider the role of Deputy President of the Police Registration and Services Board. I undertook this role on a part-time basis from 2014 to September 2017. While in this role I was not involved in the disciplinary aspect of the Board.
4. I have completed the following qualifications:
- a) A Doctorate in Business Administration from Charles Sturt University (Australian Graduate School of Leadership) in 2007; and

- b) A Masters in Public Policy and Administration from Charles Sturt University in 1995.
5. I have undertaken Victoria Police qualifications and training including the following:
- a) Detective Training School;
  - b) Sub-Officer's Course; and
  - c) Officer's Course.
6. I have received the following awards and commendations:
- a) Commendatory entry;
  - b) Police Service Medal;
  - c) Australian Police Medal;
  - d) Chief Commissioner's Certificate in 2001 and 2009.

Involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo (question 2)

7. I do not recall being involved or associated in any investigation that had any dealings in any way with Ms Gobbo.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

Question 3

8. My first awareness of Ms Gobbo providing information or assistance to Victoria Police was via the media earlier this year. I had heard of "Lawyer X" in the media but was not aware that it was Ms Gobbo until it was confirmed in the media.

Question 4

9. I am not aware of members of Victoria Police or other organisations who were aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police, other than what has been reported in the media.

Question 5

10. I do not know who was involved in the authorisation and continued authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Question 6

11. I have never had personal contact with Ms Gobbo.

Questions 7 and 8

12. I have no knowledge of these matters.

## Concerns in relation to Ms Gobbo (questions 9-11)

Question 9

13. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Question 10

14. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Question 11

15. I have no knowledge of these matters.

## Other relevant matters

Question 12

16. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Question 13

17. I completed a number of training courses in my period of employment with Victoria Police . I have not undertaken a detailed review of the Victoria Police courses I have completed or the content of those courses. I would have received training on each of the topics identified in question 13 at the Academy and then subsequently at various stages throughout my career.

Question 14

18. Through my solicitors, I asked the Royal Commission if there were specific questions they would like me to address when making this statement as I indicated that I had no knowledge to assist in answering questions 2 to 12 above. I was not asked to address tailored questions. I have reviewed the Terms of Reference and have nothing further to add in response to question 14.

Dated: 25 September 2019



Charles Leigh Gassner