

**Andrew Murray GREGOR**

**STATES:**

I am a Senior Sergeant of Police currently in charge of the Moorabbin Sex Offences and Child Abuse Unit. Between 23 July 2001 and 31 January 2004 I was a Detective Senior Sergeant of Police attached to the Ethical Standards Department (ESD) Corruption Investigation Division.

I was the principle investigator and informant relating to Operation NUTATION. NUTATION was an investigation into the circumstances of a burglary committed on premises situated at 23 Dublin Street East Oakleigh on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2003. As a result of this investigation I charged Terry HODSON, Detective Senior Constable David MIECHEL and Detective Sergeant Paul DALE with burglary and drug related offences. I prepared a statement (dated 30 January 2004) for the brief of evidence relating to Operation NUTATION.

**I PRODUCE THAT STATEMENT**

The statement I prepared for Operation NUTATION details amongst other things, various contacts I had with Terry HODSON. Due to the death of Terry and Christine HODSON I shall detail further information concerning the contact I had with the HODSON family.

Within a few days of the arrest of Terry HODSON on the 27 September 2004, arrangements were made via TASKFORCE CEJA for me to meet with Terry HODSON at TASKFORCE CEJA. This was organised in an attempt to encourage Terry HODSON to cooperate with the Operation NUTATION investigation.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2003 at approximately 1.40 p.m. I had a conversation with Terry HODSON in an interview room at TASKFORCE CEJA. Also present during this conversation was Detective Inspector Peter DESANTO and the son of Terry, Andrew HODSON. Terry and Andrew HODSON departed the office at approximately 3.20 p.m. This conversation was recorded and retained by TASKFORCE CEJA.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2003 at approximately 7.15 p.m. I received a telephone call from Detective Inspector DESANTO who informed me that he had received a telephone call from Terry HODSON who had stated to him that he had received a telephone call from an unknown male person and given the message, "*Stick together, there's no need to go on board with anyone*".

Analytical enquiries were conducted in relation to this call which revealed the following: -



Call made from (03) 94806048 (Street phone box located in Dundas Street Thornbury) to Terry HODSON'S mobile 0409865231 at 16:49 hrs. The duration of the call was 53 seconds.

On 6th October 2003 arrangements were made to meet with Terry HODSON in a park in the vicinity of Box Hill Hospital. At approximately 2.00 p.m. on this day, in company with Detective Inspector DESANTO, we met with Terry HODSON and we had a conversation with him which I covertly recorded. Conversation primarily related to the burglary in Dublin Street and his knowledge about MIECHEL and DALE. Terry HODSON indicated that he would assist and participate in an induced (reverse caution) record of interview. At approximately 2.50 p.m. Detective Inspector DESANTO and myself departed the area.

### **I PRODUCE A RECORDING OF THAT CONVERSATION**

From about 9<sup>th</sup> October 2003 to the time of Terry HODSON's death, I communicated with HODSON by ringing mobile telephone number 0400153979. HODSON supplied this mobile telephone number to me. No mobile telephone was supplied to Terry HODSON by ESD. HODSON would ring me on my mobile 0408 376394. I was informed by HODSON that no other person knew this number and he was safe to be contacted on it. I do not recall ringing HODSON's home telephone number at any time after he indicated he was going to assist in Operation NUTATION. On the occasions I rang HODSON it was not uncommon for his wife Christine to answer the phone and then pass it to Terry. During the course of the investigation I met with Terry HODSON in company with other Corruption Investigation Division investigators at various locations.

On 6<sup>th</sup> November 2004 Detective Senior Sergeant SNARE and myself met with Terry HODSON at a location in Hawthorn. The conversation principally revolved around a meeting HODSON had with his barrister.

On 5<sup>th</sup> December 2004 Detective Sergeant DALE, Detective Senior Constable MIECHEL and Terry HODSON were formally charged with offences relating to the burglary on 27 September 2003. All three were remanded in custody. A search warrant was executed on this day on Mandy HODSON's home address and she was formally interviewed.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December 2003 Terry HODSON applied for and was granted bail.

On 15<sup>th</sup> December 2003 Detective Sergeant Paul DALE applied for and was granted bail.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2003 Detective Senior Constable MIECHEL applied for and was granted bail.

On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2004 at approximately 11.50 a.m. I rang and spoke to Terry HODSON. HODSON informed me that he had been visited recently by a person he knew as Frank SAMSON who had previously worked for Louis MORAN and Tony MOCKBELL. HODSON indicated that he had not seen SAMSON for a number of years and thought it was strange that he had come to his house to see him. HODSON

stated that he made small talk and SAMSON left the unit. HODSON further stated that on News Years Eve, Jason RODDER was outside his unit and spoke to his daughter Mandy as she leaving his address. RODDER asked Mandy if he could see "the old man". Mandy replied that he was locked up. I informed Terry HODSON that it was extremely dangerous for him to have any contact with past associates and that he must avoid contact with these types of people at all costs. HODSON agreed with my view of this matter and he promised me he would not allow it to happen again.

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2004 I attended at 2/87 Harp Road East Kew in company with Detective A/Superintendent DALY and had a conversation with Terry HODSON. This conversation was overtly recorded. At this meeting HODSON provided information concerning matters involving the burglary in Dublin Street and other matters of intelligence. I also spoke briefly with Andrew HODSON who arrived at the unit during our conversation with Terry.

### **I PRODUCE A RECORDING OF THAT CONVERSATION**

Later during this day we attended at Mandy HODSON's home address and conveyed her to the Corruption Investigation Division office where I formally conducted a taped interview with her. I subsequently obtained a statement from Mandy HODSON.

On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2004 I attended at 2/87 Harp Road East Kew and I obtained a statement from Christine HODSON. Terry HODSON was at the time working in the garage area of the premises.

On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2004 I met with members from the ESD Technical Unit at 2/87 Harp Road East Kew. A full security review was conducted in order to assess and, if required, upgrade the current security at the premises. I subsequently received a written report regarding the recommendations, which I submitted through management for approval on 28 January 2004. The recommendations made were approved in total and were implemented. The Technical Unit briefed Terry HODSON in relation to the operation and use of the security equipment upgrade. I understood that a video recording system was installed at the HODSON unit and that videotapes had to be changed every 24-hour period. I did not inspect the video recording units or tapes, although I believe the video recorder(s) were located in the garage of the premises.

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2004 I attended in company with Detective A/Superintendent DALY at 2/87 Harp Road East Kew and conducted a further debrief with Terry HODSON. This conversation was recorded. The conversation related to intelligence matters involving MIECHEL and DALE

On 15<sup>th</sup> March 2004 at approximately 12.10 p.m. I received a telephone call from Terry HODSON. HODSON informed me that a bottle appeared to have been thrown at his front door which smashed between midnight and 6.00 a.m. He stated that they did not hear anything and discovered it that morning. HODSON further stated that the sensor, which is located on the eastern boundary side fence, had been moved. ESD Technical Unit members were in attendance at HODSON's house installing further equipment had reviewed the surveillance tape, which did not reveal anything.

I then contacted Detective A/Superintendent DALY and informed him about the matter.

On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at approximately 4.20 p.m. I rang mobile 0400153979 from my mobile 0408376394 and spoke with Christine HODSON. Christine informed me that Terry was in the toilet. I asked how things were going. Christine informed me that everything was okay and very quiet. I asked if Terry was keeping at home and keeping a low profile. Christine replied that he was staying at home and they had not had any visitors. Christine stated that they had a call on the MDID supplied mobile telephone on the Wednesday or Thursday evening at 10.45 p.m. She stated that they had not heard it ring because they had been out the back watching television and when they went to answer it, it stopped ringing. Christine stated there was no caller ID. I asked Christine how Mandy was and she replied she was well. I informed Christine that I would ring Terry next week. This was the last contact I had with Christine HODSON.

On 16<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at approximately 6.56 p.m. I received a telephone call from Detective Inspector Peter DE SANTO who informed me that Terry and Christine HODSON had been found murdered at their home. At approximately 7.06 p.m. I received a telephone call from Acting Superintendent DALY who confirmed that Terry and Christine HODSON had been murdered and that he would collect me from home and attend the scene to assist the Homicide Squad. At approximately 7.50 p.m. I arrived at the vicinity of 87 Harp Road East Kew in company with Mr DALY. At this location I liaised with various police in attendance. I remained in the vicinity of Harp Road and did not enter the crime scene area. At approximately 9.40 p.m. I cleared Harp Road and attended in company with Mr DALY to the Boorandara Police Station where I made various enquiries. I later cleared this location to my home address.

HODSON was to appear at the Supreme Court for a plea of guilty on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2004 in relation to the Operation NUTATION matter. Terry HODSON had verbally agreed to give evidence against DALE and MIECHEL. HODSON had been advised via OPP to his solicitor that his assistance in the matter would be communicated to the court at his plea, which would obviously substantially reduce any sentence he would receive. The committal hearing for MIECHEL and DALE was scheduled to commence on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

On numerous occasions I met with or spoke to Terry HODSON, I stressed the need to ensure vigilance regarding his own personal security. From my dealings with HODSON I was of the view that he regarded his personal security seriously and he was of the belief that he was at considerable risk of being murdered. The only threat HODSON expressed fear of was concerning MIECHEL and DALE. HODSON stated to me that he expected 'something to happen'. The offer of entering witness protection was made to HODSON on numerous occasions, which he declined. HODSON stated that he never left his home for any reason and his wife Christine only left the house every 2 or 3 days at staggered times to do some shopping. HODSON stated he believed he was as safe at his home as anywhere else. I am aware that Mandy HODSON attended at Terry and Christine's unit on a very regular basis and Andrew also dropped around frequently as well. From my dealings with Terry and Christine



HODSON, they appeared to have a very good relationship with Mandy, Andrew and Nicola although they apparently saw less of Nicola.

I am aware that Nicola was married to a notorious criminal by the name of Peter REED. Terry HODSON told me that he hated Peter REED and described him as a 'maggot'. Terry HODSON stated that REED also hated him. HODSON stated he did not associate with REED.

On all occasions I attended at 2/87 Harp Road East Kew, Christine and Terry were present at the unit. On all occasions I attended at this address I made an appointment prior to attending. Usually upon arriving at the HODSON unit, the garage door was open and Terry would be doing woodwork in the garage. HODSON had two German Shepherd dogs at the unit. On all occasions I attended at the unit and Terry had the garage open, the dogs were around the garage area and they would angrily challenge myself if I stood at the top of the driveway. Terry would then take the dogs away to the rear of the unit. Terry HODSON stated he kept the dogs in the rear yard of the unit when he was in the rear television room of a night. I am unaware where the HODSON's kept their dogs during the evening or when they went to bed at night. I am not aware what their habit was of securing the premises at night, although I am confident from my conversations with Terry that he would ensure his unit was locked up during the evening.

I informed Terry and Christine HODSON that I believed they were most vulnerable if they used the rear sitting/television room, which was located on the north-western corner of the premises and that should keep out of it especially when dark. This room is separate from the main residence. HODSON agreed with me that they would be more vulnerable when using that particular room. It is my understanding that this was the room Terry and Christine were found deceased in.

I have no knowledge of Terry HODSON being engaged in criminal activity subsequent to 27 September 2003. I have no independent knowledge how HODSON supported himself and Christine apart from hand made furniture that he produced in the garage and which he stated he sold to various people. I am not aware of any person that Terry or Christine HODSON would let into their house apart from their immediate family members. It is my belief that Terry and/or Christine HODSON would not allow access into their premises to David MIECHEL and/or Paul DALE because he had indicated to me that these were the persons he feared. I had instructed HODSON on a number of occasions to contact me directly or Mr DALY on our mobiles if any suspicious person(s), including DALE and MIECHEL attended his unit. HODSON had also been instructed to ring 000 for urgent police attendance if required and to follow up with a call directly to Mr DALY or myself.

The issue of registering Terry HODSON as an informer was discussed with superiors, but it was decided that this would not take place and he was to be treated as a witness.

Terry HODSON had been a high level informer for the MDID over an extended period of time. HODSON's position as an informer obviously increased his exposure of risk. HODSON's decision to give evidence against Paul DALE and David MIECHEL obviously increased this risk. DALE and MIECHEL, if convicted of the charges against them, could expect a substantial term of imprisonment. Due to the

murder of Terry HODSON the charges against Paul DALE were withdrawn and the case against MIECHEL has been substantially weakened.

Christine and Terry HODSON kept an immaculately clean residence. On the occasions I attended at the unit the place was neat and tidy. Terry and Christine appeared to have a very close and loving relationship and at no time did they openly express any particular concerns apart from what I have detailed in this statement.



**M. GREGOR**  
**Senior Sergeant 24792**

I hereby acknowledge that this statement is true and correct and I make it in the belief that a person making a false statement in the circumstances is liable to the penalties of perjury.



**M. GREGOR**  
**Senior Sergeant 24792**

Acknowledgement taken and signature  
witnessed by me on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2004  
at Moorabbin Police Station at 12.40p.m.



**D. TILLEY**  
**Sergeant 21225**