

EXAMINERS BRIEFING PAPER (GOBBO/ARGALL/VALOS)

Neither MEICHEL nor DALE was at any time (up to the present) asked about any matters relating to either GOBBO or ARGALL, or about any attempts at arranging meetings between HODSON and DALE.

In addition to these two hearings, a number of other persons were interviewed [some of which are detailed in Victoria Police IRs at **Folio JK**], including GOBBO, other Victoria Police members, several criminals and journalists. The Victoria Police typed summaries of their interviews with journalists Rafael EPSTEIN and Nick MCKENZIE (both of the ABC) and Jeremy KELLY (Herald-Sun) are included in this Briefing Paper [**Folio N**]. None of these interviews in any way referred to GOBBO or ARGALL, or to any attempted meetings between HODSON and DALE.

Further, none of these interviews elicited any additional information as to who removed the MDID IRs from the MDID office and subsequently distributed them to criminals. These interviews merely confirmed that the IRs were circulating within the criminal community for some months before the murder of the HODSONS, ending up in journalists' hands shortly before the murders.

**OPI inquiries from January to August 2006**

At the direction of the OPI Assistant Director, Graham ASHTON, a number of further inquiries were conducted in relation to the unauthorized disclosure of information, centering on Nicola GOBBO and any possible involvement she may have had with that unauthorized disclosure. The results of those inquiries are detailed hereunder.

In an attempt to try and establish a possible link of a 'non-professional' nature between GOBBO and DALE, including an intimate relationship, a financial check of DALE and his expenditure during the period in question was carried out, but inquiries (including those relating to hotel accommodation expenditure) were unable to ascertain any link between them. Further, outside of HODSONS assertion to GREGOR about a sexual relationship between them, no information has come to light regarding any sort of non-professional or intimate relationship between GOBBO and DALE.

On a professional level, GOBBO of course knew DALE by virtue of her role as barrister for alleged major drug criminals and he being a MDID detective.

In February 2006, as detailed earlier in this paper, ex-ESD member GREGOR stated to the undersigned that ESD had in late 2003 identified current Homicide Squad member Timothy Robert ARGALL as the alleged GOBBO/DALE 'go-between'. That was achieved via the identification of a close friendship between ARGALL and DALE and telephone call information obtained from certain CCRs. GREGOR further stated that no detailed ESD investigation of ARGALL was or has been undertaken in relation to these matters.