

NAME: Samantha Jane JENNINGS

- STATES: 1. My full name is Samantha Jane JENNINGS I am a Detective Leading Senior Constable currently attached to Geelong Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT).
2. At the time of these matters in 2003, I was attached to the Crime Department - Major Drug Investigation Division (M.D.I.D.)
3. I commenced duty at M.D.I.D. on the 7th April, 2003, and was assigned to crew being my Sergeant was Paul DALE and crew members, Dave MIECHEL and Reece CAMPBELL.
4. On Monday the 17th of June, 2019, I watched a telecast of the Royal Commission into Police Informants. At this time Former Police Detective Sergeant Paul DALE was giving evidence to the Royal Commission.
5. During evidence DALE stated in 2003 members of his crew were requested to attend Ethical Standards Division to make statement in relation to the compromise of Operation GALOP that had occurred on Saturday 27th September 2003. At this time Operation GALOP investigation had been compromised by MIECHEL and a police informer Terrance HODSON. HODSON and MIECHEL were both in custody in relation to being arrest at the scene of a burglary at the target house of Op GALOP being 23 Dublin Street Oakleigh East. Hence members on DALE's crew were requested to assist ESD by way of making a statement at this time.
6. On Monday 17th June, 2019, later in the afternoon I was contacted by Detective Inspector WOLTSCHKE from Task Force LANDOW and requested to make a statement in relation to the day I made my statement to ESD in 2003.
7. So in relation to my statement to ESD being 2nd October, 2003, my diary notes reflect that I attended at Victoria Police Centre (VPC) at 0930 hrs. I recall sitting at a table with members of the crew and being spoken to by ESD in relation to their requests for statements. It was a Major Drug Investigation that had been compromised by a serving Detective (MIECHEL) and an informer (HODSON), and ESD wished to obtain as much information into the running of the investigation as they could. I will say at this time I was exhausted, overwhelmed, and felt betrayed and upset about the compromise to Operation GALOP.

8. I was introduced to Detective Senior Sergeant Vicki LANG and Senior Constable FOGARTY from ESD who I was informed would take my statement. FOGARTY was known to me I had met him whilst working at Embona Task Force in Altona North, I did not know LANG. I was the nominated informant for OP GALOP and was asked to make a statement re this investigation.

9. During my statement, I would say a couple of hours into it, Commander PURTON knocked on the door and asked if he could speak to me in private. ESD members asked me if that was ok and I said I had no issue with this. I knew Mr PURTON as head of the Crime Department. Mr PURTON at this time told me that Dave MIECHEL was going out with Mandy HODSON and that they were girlfriend and boyfriend. He seemed quite stressed. He told me if I knew anything about this I must say. I recall exactly what I said, "Sir you're telling me things I don't know, I have never heard this."

10. Mr PURTON left the room and ESD FOGARTY and LANG came back in. At this time I asked to make a telephone call to Detective Inspector HILL at MDID. D/INSP HILL had said to ring if we needed anything.

11. I rang and spoke to D/INSP HILL, and started with saying I was ok, but let him know Mr PURTON had come in and was telling me things that I hadn't known. From memory he said he would come and get me and I informed him that I just wanted to finish my statement. D/INSP HILL was furious, I let him know I was ok.

12. Short time later a High Ranking ESD Officer spoke to me and informed me he had received a call from D/INSP HILL. The ESD Officer did give me his name but I can no longer recall it, he was really polite and friendly. He asked me if I wanted to make any complainants about my treatment and did I want to discuss the incident of Mr PURTON coming into my statement. I said no to both of those. I informed him I was fine, I had no complaints and I wanted to continue to make my statement so I could go home.

13. I then continued to make my statement with FOGARTY and LANG.

14. At no time did Commander PURTON ever ask me to put anything into my statement. Commander PURTON simply was wanting to know whether I was aware that MIECHEL was involved with Mandy HODSON and I didn't know this.

15. I wasn't upset with Commander PURTON at this time, it was fairly highly stressful time for Mr PURTON being in charge of the Crime Department and having such a major corruption having taken place. I understood then and I understand now. However, I will say that this conversation with me did not need to take place during a time when I was sitting intensely making my statement, it was unnecessary.
16. My father was a serving Chief Inspector at this time, I can't recall involving my father or discussing this issue with him.
17. My diary says I finished up at 1810 hrs on this day.
18. I can't remember who collected me from VPC, but I was made aware that everyone else had finished their statements quite some time ago. I returned to St Kilda Road MDID offices as I had to collect my bag. At this time I had a conversation with D/INSP HILL, he was still pretty upset at my statement being interrupted but I said that I was ok, and I was glad the statement was done.
19. The rest of the crew DALE, CAMPBELL I can't recall who else had gone to Casino for a drink.
20. From memory it was ^{Jones-DSS} who gave me a lift to the casino, I think he came in for a short time as well. I met up with the crew I recall it was DALE's wife's birthday. I was a lot longer that everyone else with my statement we talked about it briefly. I asked if anyone else had Mr PURTON come into their statement, they said no. At this time I remember DALE being furious, and made a big deal of it saying I had been stood over. DALE took the stance as if had affected him and that it was a reflection on him due to me having been approached by Mr PURTON.
21. I went home that night, I was owed 10 days of, I had the next 6 days off as instructed by my superiors.
22. DALE didn't return to work he went sick and blamed it on the fact that I had been approached by Mr PURTON during my statement stating that it was a reflection on him and his supervision.

23. The fact that DALE went sick to me was definitely a reflection on his character. DALE took sick leave at a time like this, on a crew that had suffered the most severe betrayal and corruption. DALE let me down, it made me sad and worried, and it was to come to light over time why he went sick. I believe DALE taking sick leave had nothing to do with me or Mr PURTON.

24. I never really thought about the PURTON incident again, it wasn't a big deal.

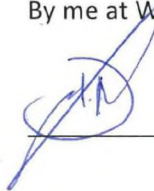


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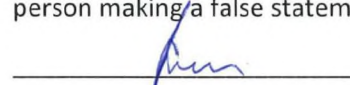
Statement taken and signature witnessed

By me at Waurn Ponds Police Station on 18th June 2019



D. ARNOLD SC/36665

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




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Acknowledgment taken and signature witnessed

By me at Waurn Ponds Police Station on 18th June 2019



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