

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

Kruger

1. My full name is Kruger s 26 (1)
s 26 (1)
2. I was previously employed by Victoria Police between October 1988 and September 2016.
3. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 19 March 2019. This statement is provided in response to a Notice to Produce served on me by the Royal Commission.

Personal Information

4. About two years after finishing my secondary school education, I entered the Victorian Police Academy. That was in October 1988.
5. I graduated from the Police Academy as a probationary Constable in February 1989. A summary of my employment history since that time is set out below:
 - After a short period of time performing city patrol duties in the Melbourne CBD, I was stationed at the St. Kilda Road Police Station;
 - In February 1990, I was gazetted to the Mildura Police Station where I performed general duties until 1997. During this period, I was promoted to the rank of Senior Constable;
 - In 1997, I applied for and obtained a position as a Detective Senior Constable within the Victoria Police Crime Department – Drug Squad. The main tasks performed at this location were investigations into clandestine laboratories. My role also included conducting investigations into other forms of drug trafficking;
 - In early to mid-2000, I left the Crime Department having obtained a position as a Detective Senior Constable at the Mildura Crime Investigation Unit;
 - In August 2009, I was promoted to Sergeant at the Mildura Police Station where my duties included the supervision of general duties members. For a period of twelve months I was in Charge of Mildura Tasking Unit. The tasking unit was responsible for investigations into drug trafficking and other serious crime;

- In June 2011, I applied for and received the position of Detective Sergeant at the Mildura Crime Investigation Unit. During this time, I regularly performed duties upgraded to Detective Acting Senior Sergeant – Western Region Division 6 Crime Advisor and Officer in Charge of the Mildura Crime Investigation Unit.
6. I have undertaken the following Victoria Police qualifications and training:
- Detective Training School;
 - Sub Officers Course;
 - Human Source Management Levels 1, 2 and 3; and
 - Advanced Investigation Management Course.

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

7. Victoria Police records shown to me record that I had contact with Ms Gobbo between 1997 and 1999. I have very little recollection of my contact with Ms Gobbo and have relied heavily on documents in answering the questions of the Royal Commission in this statement.

Operation Carron

8. In 1997, I was a Detective Senior Constable in the Drug Squad and the subsequent police informant for a number of Drug Squad prosecutions, including one operation codenamed 'Operation Carron'. Operation Carron targeted a syndicate who were trafficking heroin from Victoria to New South Wales and South Australia.
9. Operation Carron resulted in the arrest of various people, including Darren Jackson, Traian Duma and Peter Reid.
10. From my review of my diary, my first contact with Ms Gobbo was when I spoke with her in relation to *Operation Carron*. It appears from documents that s 26 (1) were acting for at least three of the people charged, namely Darren Jackson, Traian Duma and Peter Reid and that Ms Gobbo was working at s 26 (1) at the time.
11. My police diary records that this first conversation with Ms Gobbo was on 11 December 1997¹ and that it was in relation to Mr Jackson. I have no memory of this conversation. From reviewing contemporaneous entries in my police diary, it appears that Ms Gobbo may have called me in relation to property seized which was not relevant to the investigation or an exhibit

¹ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0141].

as part of the brief of evidence, and that she sought the return of the property to a family member of Mr Jackson.

12. Next, my police diary records that on 23 January 1998², I attended the offices of s 26 (1) s 26 (1) to serve video and audio tapes that formed part of the brief of evidence in *Operation Carron*. According to my diary, Ms Gobbo accepted service of those materials. I have no memory of attending the offices on this date or meeting Ms Gobbo.
13. I have been asked if I have any recollection of attending a meeting on or around 11 May 1998 with the Office of Public Prosecutions (OPP), Detective Senior Sergeant Wayne Strawhorn (Drug Squad) and Ms Gobbo in relation to the charges resulting from Operation Carron. It is not unusual for the police informant to meet with the OPP and a defendant's solicitor to discuss a possible plea. However, I have no recollection of a meeting involving the OPP and Ms Gobbo or of any discussion about a plea deal.
14. My police diary records that on 20 May 1998³, Detective Senior Constable Peter Kennedy and I attended the offices of s 26 (1) to serve parts of the briefs of evidence relating to Mr Duma and Mr Reid. Ms Gobbo accepted service. This is my first memory of meeting Ms Gobbo. My only memory of this meeting is of her commenting on the presentation of the briefs in blue folders. Given that I was serving briefs of evidence, I expect that we discussed the briefs and that I explained the contents.
15. My police diary records that on 16 June 1998⁴, I attended the offices of s 26 (1) s 26 (1) and served Ms Gobbo with further statements in relation to the briefs of evidence in *Operation Carron*. I have no memory of this attendance.
16. My police diary records that on 14 July 1998⁵, 17 July 1998⁶ and 20 July 1998⁷, I spoke with Ms Gobbo over the telephone. I have no memory of these telephone conversations. It appears from my diary that these telephone calls were in relation to making arrangements for a meeting. I can see from my diary records that I then met her on 21 July 1998. I have a recollection of her telling me at some stage that her boss, s 26 (1) was misusing his solicitors trust account. I expect that she told me about that matter prior to my meeting with her on 21 July 1998.

² VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0142].

³ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0143].

⁴ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0144].

⁵ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0145 to 0146].

⁶ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0145 to 0146].

⁷ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0145 to 0146].

17. My police diary records⁸ the meeting on 21 July 1998 and that former Detective Senior Constable Chris Lim (Drug Squad) was with me when I met with Ms Gobbo in the Melbourne CBD. My diary records that this meeting was in relation to *Operation Carron* and 'others'. Based on the content of an Information Report for this meeting, it appears that the reference to "others" was a reference to s 26 (1) [REDACTED]. My diary records that an Information Report was submitted.⁹
18. I have been shown the Information Report for the meeting.¹⁰ I have no memory of preparing it. However, on the face of it, it does appear to have been prepared by me.
19. The Information Report states that further contact was to be made by me with Ms Gobbo and that I was to liaise with Member 1 [REDACTED] of the National Crime Authority.¹¹ I have no recollection of subsequently contacting or meeting with Member 1 [REDACTED].
20. I have a faint recollection of this meeting with Ms Gobbo and SC Lim. My only faint memory is that there was some type of issue between SC Lim and Ms Gobbo in that one of them had some reservations about the other or both had reservations about each other.
21. My police diary records that on 22 July 1998¹², I spoke with Ms Gobbo over the telephone in relation to *Operation Carron*. I have no memory of that telephone conversation.
22. My police diary records that on 14 September 1998¹³, the committal hearing for four co-accused following *Operation Carron* commenced. I have been asked if I have any memory of meeting with D/S/S Strawhorn and the OPP that day. I have no memory of such a meeting.
23. My police diary records that on 21 and 25 January 1999¹⁴, I spoke with Ms Gobbo over the telephone. It also records that I met with her on 27 January 1999. It appears from my diary that these discussions were in relation to the charges against Mr Duma. I have no memory of these conversations.

Operation Ramsden

24. My police diary records that on 28 April 1999¹⁵, I met with former Detective Senior Constable Jeff Pope (Asset Recovery Squad) from 9:30am to 10:50am regarding information arising from *Operation Carron*. I have no memory of this meeting. Given the content of the Information

⁸ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0146].

⁹ VPL.0005.0007.0140, [at 0146].

¹⁰ IR HDIRO1176 (VPL.0005.0022.0331).

¹¹ IR HDIRO1176 (VPL.0005.0022.0331).

¹² VPL.0005.0020.0036.

¹³ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0147].

¹⁴ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0148]; VPL.0005.0020.0036 [at 0037].

¹⁵ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0149].

Report referred to above, and DSC Pope's location in the Asset Recovery Squad, I expect that this meeting was in relation to the information provided by Ms Gobbo regarding s 26 (1) s 26 (1)

It appears from my diary that D/S/C Pope came to the Drug Squad for the meeting.

25. I have been asked if I have any memory of speaking to D/S/C Pope regarding *Operation Ramsden* on 4 and 7 May 1999. I have no recollection of speaking to him around that time. I have no recollection of the name 'Operation Ramsden'. I assume that codename was generated by the Asset Recovery Squad of which I was not a member.
26. My police diary records that on 6 May 1999¹⁶, Ms Gobbo contacted me by telephone in relation to *Operation Carron*. I have no recollection of that telephone conversation.
27. My police diary records that on 12 May 1999¹⁷, I attended a meeting with D/S/C Pope and Detective Sergeant Gavan Segrave (Asset Recovery Squad) at the Drug Squad offices in relation to a proposed meeting with a human source later that day. I have no memory of this meeting but it appears from a later diary entry that the human source was Ms Gobbo.
28. My diary records later that day¹⁸, that D/S/C Pope, D/S/S Strawhorn, D/Sgt Segrave and I attended a meeting with Ms Gobbo. I do not recall this meeting. It appears from my diary entries that the purpose of this meeting may have been to introduce Ms Gobbo to D/S/C Pope and D/Sgt Segrave as members of the Asset Recovery Squad in relation to her allegations against s 26 (1)
29. My diary does not record any further contact with Ms Gobbo.
30. My only memories of Ms Gobbo are the meeting at which she commented on the briefs of evidence (referred to above), her telling me at some stage about s 26 (1) misuse of his trust account, talking to her around the court precinct at times (but I do not now recall what we discussed but expect that it was just pleasantries) and briefly running into her at a pub when I was out socially with friends. I cannot recall the pub or when this occurred or our discussion.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (questions 3-8)

Question 3

31. I refer to my response to question 2 concerning my state of knowledge as to information assistance provided by Ms Gobbo.

¹⁶ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0150].

¹⁷ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0151].

¹⁸ VPL.0005.0007.0140 [at 0151].

32. I have only recently learned of Ms Gobbo's role as a human source subsequent to 1999 through the news.

Question 4

33. I refer to my response to question 2.

Question 5

34. I refer to my response to question 2. I have no knowledge of who was involved in the authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Question 6

35. I refer to my response to question 2.

Question 7

36. I refer to my response to question 2.

Question 8

37. I have no knowledge of this.

Concerns in relation to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source (questions 9-11)

Question 9

38. I refer to my response to question 2. I have no knowledge or awareness regarding any concerns raised at any time by members of Victoria Police or other policing or law enforcement agencies as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source.

39. The information that Ms Gobbo appears to have provided concerning s 26 (1) [REDACTED] alleged fraudulent activities does not seem to fall within the ambit of legally confidential or privileged information.

Question 10

40. I refer to my response to question 2.

Question 11

41. I have no awareness as to any discussion.

Other relevant matters

Question 12

42. I have no knowledge of any other human source who has provided information or assistance to Victoria Police who was subject to legal obligations of confidentiality or privilege.

Question 13

43. I refer to the earlier part of this statement as to the training I received while employed by Victoria Police.

Question 14

44. I have nothing further to add in response to question 14.

Dated: 28 March 2019

Kruger

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Kruger