

STATEMENT

I have previously supplied three statements to the police in relation to the murder of Victor PEIRCE.

On Friday the 21 November 2008 I informed the police that I had additional information about the PEIRCE murder and the involvement of Vince BENVENUTO.

I have personally met Vince BENVENUTO two or three times. I have seen him around the traps heaps of times, in PII [REDACTED] mainly. I saw him having coffee a few times before I first met him in Bay Street, Port Melbourne after the PEIRCE murder. I have detailed that meeting in previous statements. I had heard a lot about Vince and how he used to make up false licences. After the Bay Street meeting I found out that Vince was dealing drugs. Vince was working for Nik RADEV selling speed. I know this because I was involved in making the speed for RADEV.

Another meeting with Vince was at a car wash in Hoddle Street. This car wash was near a Seven Eleven store. I don't know what the suburb is there but I can point it out if I went there. I was at the car wash because I had seen Nik RADEV there and pulled in. I was there talking to RADEV about drugs when I saw Vince getting his car done. Vince had a white two door XP Ford which is a rare car. Vince's car was in mint condition. As I was talking to RADEV he asked me what I thought of Vince. I told him I had no beef with him.

Vince then came over to Nik and me. As Vince walked up RADEV had moved away. I said to Vince something like I heard you did a little mate of ours a favour. By that I meant assisting Andrew to set up PEIRCE. Vince knew what I was talking about straight away and nodded his head and said something. I can't recall what he said. I then said thank you to him. The meeting was out in the open and away from other people including Nik so we couldn't be overheard.

Vince and I talked about stuff in general and did not elaborate on our initial conversation. Nik returned and we continued our general conversation.

The meeting took place well after PEIRCE's murder and obviously before Nik died. I can't remember how long before his death the meeting happened. I was in my black ute at the time. I can't recall exactly what Nik was driving but it wasn't the black Mercedes. Nik also had someone there with him, he almost always did. This was either Ange GOUSSIS or Damien COSSU. I can't remember who was with him on this date. No one else took part in the conversation between Vince and I. We spoke alone.

From Vince's response he knew exactly what I was talking about. We almost always used code in our profession when talking aloud. Vince nodded in agreement and did not deny helping Andrew out. Everyone knew who the little bloke was including Vince. Everone called Andrew that.

The conversation between Vince and I took place at the front of the car wash on the Hoddle Street side.

Mr Thomas

Statement taken and signature witnessed
By me at Victoria on 24 November 2008 at 1135 AM.

Mark HATT
Detective Acting Sergeant 30272

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.

Mr Thomas

Acknowledgment made and signature witnessed
By me at Victoria on 24 November 2008 at 1140 AM.

Mark HATT
Detective Acting Sergeant 30272