

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

STATEMENT OF LIZA EMILY BURROWS

1. My full name is Liza Emily Burrows. I am a Detective Senior Constable at the Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit.
2. 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 produced to the Royal Commission in response to a Notice to Produce.

Educational background and employment history (question 1)

3. I commenced employment with Victoria Police in March 1998. I graduated from the Police Academy in July 1998 and was appointed to Craigieburn as my training station. A summary of my employment history since that time is set out below:
 - a) November 1998 to October 2000 – Craigieburn Uniform
 - b) October 2000 to November 2001 – Transit Uniform
 - c) November 2001 to June 2003 – Transit Divisional Response Unit
 - d) July 2002 – Promotion to Senior Constable
 - e) August 2002 to November 2002 – Asian Squad (Temporary Duties in position of Detective)
 - f) June 2003 to September 2003 – Transit Criminal Investigations Unit (Temporary Duties in position of Detective)
 - g) September 2003 to November 2005 – Major Drug Investigation Division (First position as detective)
 - h) November 2005 to March 2006 – *Purana Taskforce*
 - i) March 2006 to September 2008 – [REDACTED]
 - j) September 2008 to December 2008 – Collingwood Uniform (Sergeant Temporary Duties)

- k) December 2008 to April 2009 – Privacy Unit (Sergeant Temporary Duties)
 - l) April 2009 to May 2012 – Inverloch Uniform
 - m) May 2012 to July 2012 – Morwell Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT) (Temporary Duties)
 - n) July 2012 to Present – Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit
4. I have completed the following qualifications:
- a) Victorian Certificate of Education (1990)
 - b) Associate Diploma of Business in Legal Practice (RMIT University)(1994)
 - c) Diploma of Police Studies (Deakin University)(2000)
5. I have undertaken Victoria Police qualifications and training including the following:
- a) PII [REDACTED]
 - b) Field Investigators Course No. 47 (2003)
 - c) Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (2004)
 - d) Clandestine Lab Course (2004)
 - e) Detective Training School (2004)
6. I have received the following professional awards:
- a) Divisional Commendation (Transit Safety Division) (2002)
 - b) Departmental Commendation PII [REDACTED] (2010)

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

7. My involvement or association with investigations that had dealings with Ms Gobbo occurred while I was a Detective Senior Constable at the Major Drug Investigation

Division (MDID) between 1 September 2003 and 4 December 2005 and the *Purana Taskforce* between 5 December 2005 and 13 March 2006.

MDID

8. My first involvement or association with an investigation that had dealings with Ms Gobbo was *Operation Quills*, an investigation into drug manufacturing and trafficking by **Mr Bickley** (Bednarski) and others associated with Tony Mokbel (T Mokbel).
9. I was a Detective Senior Constable with the MDID and was on a crew with Detective Sergeant Steve Mansell, Detective Senior Constable Craig Hayes and Detective Senior Constable Paul Rowe. Detective Senior Sergeant Jim O'Brien was the unit supervisor.
10. The first reference to *Operation Quills* in my official Victoria Police diary (diary) is on 29 June 2005, when I was conducting surveillance in the Collingwood area with D/S Mansell and D/S/C Rowe.
11. Between 29 June 2005 and 10 August 2005, I performed various tasks related to *Operation Quills* including surveillance and monitoring of telephone intercept recordings.
12. I've been advised that on 15 August 2005, **Mr Bickley** and others were arrested although I do not have a note of this in my diary. I assisted in the arrest phase including ^{P/I} [redacted] the interviews of **Mr Bickley** and others. D/S/C Rowe was the primary interviewer.
13. My diary records that the interview with **Mr Bickley** was suspended because he asked to contact a solicitor. He attempted to contact Ms Gobbo but was not able to speak with her and left a message.
14. I took leave between 19 August 2005 and 12 September 2005.
15. On my return from leave, I continued undertaking tasks in relation to *Operation Quills*, including the compilation of the brief of evidence for **Mr Bickley** and others.
16. On 20 September 2005, D/S/S O'Brien informed me that an application was being made ^{to the} by the Victoria Police surveillance unit in relation to Mark Lanteri (**Lanteri**), an associate of T Mokbel.

17. On 21 September 2005, I attended a meeting with Detective Acting Superintendent *Robert* Ian Hill, Inspector Adrian White, D/S Mansell and D/S/C Rowe in relation to *Operation Quills*. I have no information detailed in my diary in relation to what was discussed.

18. On 27 September 2005, I attended a meeting with Commander Terry Purton, A/SI *Robert* Ian Hill, D/S/S O'Brien, D/S/C Rowe and Detective Sergeant *Brennan-DS* and Detective Sergeant *Jones-DSS* both from the Dedicated Source Unit (DSU) in relation to *Operation Quills*. At this meeting there was also discussion about a possible new taskforce. I recall that this was a discussion about our crew possibly transferring to the *Purana Taskforce* to work on an operation targeting T Mokbel and his associates.

19. On 30 September 2005, I attended a meeting with Com Purton, A/SI *Robert* Ian Hill, Detective Inspector Robert Hardie, Detective Senior Sergeant Dale Flynn, D/S/S O'Brien, D/S/C Rowe and D/S *Brennan-DS* in relation to *Operation Quills*. I have no information detailed in my diary in relation to what was discussed.

20. On 5 October 2005, I attended a meeting in relation to *Operation Quills*. I have no information detailed in my diary in relation to who was present or what was discussed.

21. On 25 October 2005, D/S/C Hayes and I attended an apartment in Southbank owned by T Mokbel during the execution of a search warrant by the Australian Federal Police.

22. On 3 November 2005, I attended another meeting in relation to our crew transferring to the *Purana Taskforce*.

23. I then took leave between 19 November 2005 and 5 December 2005.

Purana Taskforce

24. I officially commenced duties as a Detective Senior Constable at the *Purana Taskforce* on 5 December 2005. The operation targeting T Mokbel and his associates was named *Operation Posse*.

25. My diary records that on 9 December 2005, I received information relevant to *Operation Posse* from D/S/S O'Brien which he had received from the DSU. The information that I received is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to the

manufacturing of drugs by Milad Mokbel (M Mokbel), Lanteri and ^{P7}

^{P7}, possible locations for the drug laboratory and a mobile number for ^{P7}.

This is the first time that my diary indicates I received information that had been provided by the DSU in relation to *Operation Posse*.

26. On 15 December 2005, I received further information from the DSU. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary related to drug activity including that ^{P7} was cooking, the possible location of his drug laboratory and M Mokbel's chemical supplier.
27. On 22 December 2005, I received information from DSU. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to M Mokbel, ^{P7} and Lanteri and how T Mokbel was paying his lawyers.
28. On 27 December 2005, I was on a rest day and received information by phone from the DSU. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to drug activity by ^{P7}
29. On 29 December 2005, I received information from the DSU. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to drug activity and further information about how T Mokbel was paying his lawyers.
30. On 30 December 2005, I was on a rest day and received information by phone from the DSU. On 3 January 2006, I noted in my diary the information I had received by phone on 30 December. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to drug activity and T Mokbel hosting a party for New Year's Eve. My diary records that I contacted ^{P7} and Shane O'Connell about the above information. I recall that ^{P7} was from the surveillance unit, however, I can't recall who O'Connell was.
31. My diary also records that on 3 January 2006, I attended a meeting with D/S/S O'Brien, ^{P7} and ^{P7} in relation to *Operation Posse* targets. I have no information detailed in my diary in relation to what was discussed, however, it would have been in relation to surveillance. My diary also refers to me signing certified copies of SPU Affidavits in relation to Lanteri, H Mokbel and M Mokbel. These are affidavits used in support of applications for certain investigative tools.

32. On 11 January 2006, I received information from D/S [Brennan-DS]. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to an American tape expert. I have no recollection of the relevance of that expert to *Operation Posse*.
33. On 17 January 2006, I received information from D/S [Brennan-DS] at DSU. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to Rob Karam (**Karam**), an associate of T Mokbel. On the same day, my diary records that I attended a meeting with DSU and Covert Operatives. What was discussed at that meeting is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to T Mokbel,^{PT} and **Mr Bickley**
34. On 18 January 2006, I received information from [Brennan-DS]. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to Karam and Kamel Koder (**Khoder**).
35. On 19 January 2006, I received information from D/S [Brennan-DS]. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to Karam and drug activity.
36. On 26 January 2006, I received information from the DSU. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to Karam and drug activity.
37. On 1 February 2006, I received information from the DSU. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to^{PT} Lanteri and Karam. My diary also contains a reference to the trial of T Mokbel having been adjourned to the following Tuesday.
38. Over the following days I monitored the listening devices for *Operation Posse* and undertook surveillance on^{PT} and Zlate Cvetanovski (**Cvetanovski**).
39. On 8 February 2006, I received information from D/S [Brennan-DS]. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to M Mokbel and Mokbel associates Jack Schmidt and Michael Haymar.
40. On 23 February 2006, I received information from D/S/S O'Brien which he had received from DSU. The information is detailed in my diary but, in summary, related to^{PT} drug activity.
41. On 13 March 2006, I commenced other duties at Victoria Police. I had no further involvement in *Operation Posse* after that date.

Further information disseminated to me by SDU

42. I have been informed that there is a record on the Loricated database which shows that on 3 October 2005, D/S Brennan DS asked me to for information about an individual with the surname Camilleri and that I informed him that I believed I was aware of that individual as a result of *Operation Quills*. I do not have an entry of this in my diary and I do not recall that interaction but I do not dispute it occurred.
43. I have been informed that records on the Loricated database show that information was also disseminated to me from the DSU on 5 October 2005, 25 December 2005, 6 January 2006 and 22 January 2006. I do not have entries of these interactions with SDU in my diary and I do not recall those interactions but I do not dispute they occurred.

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

Question 3

44. My first awareness of Ms Gobbo providing information or assistance to Victoria Police was after D/S Mansell and D/S/C Rowe returned from a meeting with Ms Gobbo. I recall they told me that they had just met with Ms Gobbo, she was worried about her career and the people she was associating with and she would possibly like to start providing Victoria Police with information. I cannot recall the date of that meeting, but I believe it occurred while I was at MDID after the conclusion of *Operation Quills*.
45. My first awareness of Ms Gobbo providing information or assistance to Victoria Police in 1995 and 1999 was via recent media.

Question 4

46. I refer to my answer to question 3. I believe my crew at the time, D/S Steve Mansell, D/S/C Craig Hayes and D/S/C Paul Rowe, and also our unit supervisor D/S/S Jim O'Brien, were aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police.
47. I otherwise have no knowledge of these matters.

Question 5

48. I do not know who was involved in the authorisation and continued authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Question 6

49. I do not recall having any personal contact with Ms Gobbo.
50. I may have dealt with Ms Gobbo as a solicitor or around the Court precinct but I cannot remember having personal contact with her specifically on any occasion. I have not seen any entries in my diary that records personal contact with Ms Gobbo.

Questions 7 and 8

51. I refer to my answers to questions 2 and 3.
52. When I received information from the DSU, I was informed that the information had been provided by a human source. Sometimes the DSU would refer to 'a source' or 'the source' and other times they would refer to the source by number. I was aware that the source was Ms Gobbo. I was aware of this for two reasons: (1) because of the conversation referred to above when I was informed by D/S Mansell and D/S/C Rowe that Ms Gobbo was interested in providing information to Victoria Police and (2) because I was not aware of any other human source who was providing detailed information in relation to those targets at the time. Given the type of information that I was receiving from DSU, it was clear to me that it was being provided by Ms Gobbo.
53. Although I was involved in the early investigations for *Operation Posse*, I had left the *Purana Taskforce* by the time of any arrests were made or charges laid. I therefore have no knowledge of the information that was relied on in relation to those arrests and/or charges.
54. I otherwise have no knowledge of these matters.

Concerns in relation to Ms Gobbo (questions 9-11)

Question 9

55. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Question 10

56. I recall that there were concerns about Ms Gobbo's registration as a human source because of her profession and concerns for her personal safety. I also recall discussions about how to manage her registration as a human source. I cannot recall the specific details of these concerns or discussions. I do recall that those concerns were discussed amongst our crew and D/S/S O'Brien and that those concerns were discussed on numerous occasions, including immediately after the initial meeting between D/S Mansell, D/S/C Rowe and Ms Gobbo.
57. After those initial discussions, I focused on the *Operation Posse* investigation and did not give further thought to Ms Gobbo's registration. I was aware that Ms Gobbo was being handled by DSU and, in my position as a Detective Senior Constable, I assumed that someone of a higher rank had determined that we could receive and act on the information provided.

Question 11

58. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Other relevant matters

Question 12

59. I have no knowledge of these matters.

Question 13

60. In the time available, I have not been able to review all of my training records and I do not recall specific training in relation to matters listed in question 13 however, I comment that those matters were generally covered in the Academy and were part of basic police training. I also recall receiving further training in relation to those matters during Detective Training School and [REDACTED].

Question 14

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

Dated: 10 May 2019



Liza Emily Burrows

