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

STATEMENT OF GAVAN ANTHONY RYAN

- 1 My full name is Gavan Anthony Ryan.
- 2 I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants. The statement is produced to the Royal Commission in response to a notice to produce.

Educational background and employment history (Q1)

- 3 I joined Victoria Police in 1979, when I was 29 years old. I worked at the following areas.
 - (a) Port Melbourne Uniform (Constable 1979-1983).
 - (b) St Kilda Uniform (Constable and Senior Constable 1983-1985).
 - (c) Fitzroy CIB (Detective Senior Constable 1985-1988).
 - (d) Homicide Squad (Detective Senior Constable 1988-1990).
 - (e) St Kilda Uniform (Sergeant 1990-1991), Spectrum Taskforce (Detective Sergeant 1991-1993).
 - (f) Homicide Squad (Detective Sergeant and Detective Acting Senior Sergeant 1993-1998).
 - (g) Brunswick Uniform (Senior Sergeant 1998-2001),
 - (h) Arson Squad (Detective Senior Sergeant 2001-2003).
 - (i) In September 2003 I joined the Purana Taskforce as a Detective Senior Sergeant and later became a Detective Inspector there.

- 4 In April 2008, I joined the Australian Federal Police as a Superintendent.
- 5 In 2008/09, I deployed to the Solomon Islands for 13 months mentoring Detectives in the National Criminal Investigation Department.
- 6 In 2009/10, I was deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan for 12 months where I taught Afghan National Police Detectives.
- 7 In December 2010, after returning from Afghanistan, I was deployed to Christmas Island where I was the Police Forward Commander for the crash of a Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel (SIEV221) onto rocks resulting in 50 dead.
- 8 On 22 February 2011, I was deployed to Christchurch, New Zealand as the AFP Police Forward Commander following the Earthquake where 185 people were killed.
- 9 In July 2011, I was again deployed to Afghanistan as the AFP Contingent Commander (29 members) and was stationed at Tarin Kowt. I remained as Commander until February 2012.
- 10 I received commendations for my work at the Purana Taskforce, as well as my service in Afghanistan, New Zealand and Christmas Island.
- 11 I attended numerous courses in Victoria Police including Detective Training School, Sergeant and Senior Sergeant Courses. I obtained a Graduate Certificate in Applied Management in 2005.
- 12 I retired from the AFP in March 2013.
- 13 I have received the following professional awards and commendations for my work at Victoria Police and the Australian Federal Police:
 - (a) Australian Police Medal (2007);
 - (b) Police Overseas Service Medals (Afghanistan and Solomon Islands);
 - (c) Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (New Zealand);

- (d) National Police Service Medal;
- (e) National Medal (25 year clasp);
- (f) NATO Medal;
- (g) Afghan National Police Medal of Honour;
- (h) Regional Assistance Mission (Solomon Islands);
- (i) Victoria Police Service Medal;
- (j) Chief Commissioner's Certificate (Purana);
- (k) Letter of Commendation (Lorimer Taskforce);
- (l) Commissioner's Group Citation for Hazardous Service (Afghanistan); and
- (m) Commissioner's Group Citation for Conspicuous Conduct (SIEV 221).

My involvement or association with any investigation which had dealings with Ms Gobbo (Q2)

- 14 To the best of my recollection, the two investigations that I was involved in that had dealings with Ms Gobbo were the Purana and Petra Taskforces.
- 15 The Purana Taskforce was established following a number of underworld murders and shootings around Melbourne. It was clear that there was a drug war between various syndicates (the Carlton Crew, which included the Moran family and Carl Williams' crew, which Tony Mokbel aligned with). It was obvious that some of these murders were linked to hit men and it was our task to arrest the perpetrators for whatever offences we could and to get them in gaol in order to stop the shootings.
- 16 It was a pressure packed environment in which to work. The most pressure came from within the Police Force. There was pressure from Command, who in turn were being pressured by Government to stop the shootings that were occurring in Melbourne. There was

pressure to stop the flow of drugs, particularly methylamphetamine, which all syndicates referred to above were involved in.

- 17 The Purana Taskforce received constant intelligence from a variety of sources about impending murders. I am not aware of Ms Gobbo providing this kind of intelligence. This intelligence also placed the Purana leadership under pressure. For example, we would occasionally get information that a particular criminal was about to be hit and information as to the potential killer. This kind of information requires quick decisions as to what should be done to try to prevent that murder from taking place. At times it felt like you were always on call.
- 18 The most difficult decision to make was a decision to do nothing. Often, it was too risky to act on this type of intelligence because intervening in some way might alert the other side, which might make some form of retribution inevitable. Other times, acting on information would prejudice the safety of the source. During my time in charge of Purana there were many nights when I went to sleep dreading that I would get a phone call about another murder.
- 19 I have been shown a copy of a chronology that was compiled by Commander Bateson's crew. There are a number of entries in the chronology that refer to meetings that I attended or updates that I received. I have checked the chronology against my own diary. Whilst my own diaries do not record my attendance at all of the meetings or receipt of all of the updates, I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the chronology.
- 20 I first heard of Ms Gobbo shortly after I started at Purana in September 2003. At the time I started at Purana, Ms Gobbo was acting for various accused persons who were part of Carl Williams' crew. Her name was mentioned from time to time around the Taskforce.
- 21 In addition, information that was received by the Purana Taskforce suggested to me that Ms Gobbo may have been an intermediary between various persons of interest to the Purana Taskforce. From time to time, Ms Gobbo would be observed in multiple surveillance operations, which made it appear that she was passing information between different persons of interest. This made me suspicious of her and I thought that her relationship with her clients went beyond that of a normal barrister and client. I was so suspicious of her that in

late 2003 or early 2004, we briefly put her under surveillance. I only recall having her under surveillance once. However, before and after this, she would continually show up when we had surveillance on others. I continued to be suspicious of Ms Gobbo and her connections with the underworld.

- 22 On 25 October 2003, Michael Marshall was murdered. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 23 [REDACTED] Detective Sergeant Stuart Bateson and others on the Purana Taskforce met with [REDACTED] in prison and were provided with information on a number of occasions. I was provided with regular updates from Detective Sergeant Bateson.
- 24 At some point in [REDACTED] 2004, I learned that Ms Gobbo acted for [REDACTED]. While I don't recall, I believe that Detective Sergeant Bateson would have told me this during one of the regular updates I received from him.
- 25 On 25 March 2004, I attended a meeting at the OPP with Geoff Horgan, Vaile Anscombe, Acting Detective Sergeant Boris Buick, Detective Inspector Andrew Allen and Detective Sergeant Bateson about the prosecution of [REDACTED]. I don't recall what was discussed at this meeting. However, I do recall that this was one of a number of meetings that I attended with the OPP about [REDACTED].
- 26 On 31 March 2004, Lewis Moran was murdered at the Brunswick Club on Sydney Road. My diary records that I started on 31 March 2004 at 7.00am. I didn't clock off until 5.00pm on 1 April. I was in charge of the crime scene during that whole period.
- 27 This was my personal low-point. By March 2004, we had made significant arrests and I thought we were getting on top of the killings. It was obvious there was a new "hit team" in operation. It felt like we were back to square one.

- 28 In June 2004, Operation Lemma commenced. Operation Lemma came out of Operation Droil, which was a drug investigation into [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Intelligence received in Operation Droil uncovered a plot to murder Mario Condello, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Some days after the commencement of Operation Lemma, [REDACTED] withdrew and was replaced by [REDACTED].
- 29 Intelligence indicated that Condello and George Deferos were conspiring to murder Carl and George Williams and Terry Chimirri. These competing conspiracies placed an enormous strain on the whole of Victoria Police, because we were using significant resources trying to arrest the conspirators in both conspiracies without allowing either hit to take place.
- 30 On [REDACTED] 2004, [REDACTED] were arrested and charged with [REDACTED]. On 17 June 2004, Mario Condello and George Deferos were arrested and charged with conspiracy to murder. These arrests were very significant as it placed Williams behind bars and severely hampered his criminal enterprise.
- 31 Sometime later that year, [REDACTED] made statements implicating Williams and [REDACTED] in several murders. I did not take the statements from [REDACTED] but continued to receive updates from Detective Sergeant Bateson.
- 32 On [REDACTED] 2004, [REDACTED] arrested. In the subsequent months, efforts were made by the Purana Taskforce to get him to "roll".
- 33 I believe that Ms Gobbo acted for [REDACTED] in relation to this charge.
- 34 I do not recall any dealing with Ms Gobbo in the period from August 2004 to early 2005.
- 35 Between May and August 2005, I received a number of updates from Detective Sergeant Stuart Bateson about meetings and conversations that he had with Ms Gobbo in her capacity as a defence barrister. I believe that Detective Sergeant Bateson initially met with Ms Gobbo in relation to statements that were being given by her clients and possibly working out some kind of deal for them.

- 36 I recall having a discussion with Detective Sergeant Bateson about Ms Gobbo. He came into my office and stated that Ms Gobbo seemed to want to provide information about the underworld and defence lawyers representing them. I was very dubious as I had the opinion that she was very close to Carl Williams and Tony Mokbel. I was worried she could be a double agent. I recommended that Detective Sergeant Bateson should introduce Ms Gobbo to the Dedicated Source Unit (**DSU**) (later known as the Source Development Unit (**SDU**)) because it was their job to assess and register her as a source if she was found to be suitable.
- 37 Detective Sergeant Bateson and I didn't discuss this further and, until I prepared this statement, I assumed that Detective Sergeant Bateson did introduce her to the DSU.
- 38 At this time, it would have been possible for the Purana Taskforce to register and handle Ms Gobbo as a human source. However, the DSU had been set up specifically to manage high risk informers. In my experience, almost all informers are criminals. Even in the case of criminal informers, the risks to safety are such that it was preferable that they be separately handled by the DSU.
- 39 At the time, I remember thinking that if she was to become an informer in the underworld murders, then she would be risking death at every meeting. Purana was so busy handling multiple investigations that we were not in a position to be her handler or controller. If she was to be registered, then the DSU were better placed and trained to handle her and protect her.
- 40 In around November 2005, Detective Acting Inspector Jim O'Brien took over my role at Purana. In December 2005, I was promoted to Detective Inspector at the Major Drug Investigation Division. I returned to the Purana Taskforce from time to time to relieve Detective Acting Inspector O'Brien when he was on leave.
- 41 It was in around December 2005 that I became aware that the DSU had registered Ms Gobbo as a human source under the number "3838".
- 42 The SDU provided information received by Ms Gobbo via a "sterile corridor" to the head of the Purana Taskforce. The term "sterile corridor" refers to the process by which the information was passed on. If Ms Gobbo gave information to her handlers within the SDU,

the handler would then pass information that was relevant to Purana via the head of the Purana Taskforce. In most cases, this would have been Detective Acting Inspector O'Brien, or me (when Detective Acting Inspector O'Brien was on leave).

- 43 I am not aware if the SDU ever received privileged information from Ms Gobbo. If the SDU did receive privileged information from Ms Gobbo, I believe they filtered this information and did not provide it to me.
- 44 Ordinarily, I would receive information from the SDU by telephone. They would usually refer to the source as a "RHS" or "3838". Due to the type of information, I deduced that the source was Ms Gobbo but never used her name when I passed information on to the relevant investigation team.
- 45 Where I received information via the sterile corridor, I would immediately pass it on to the relevant Purana crew. On occasion, I would also record it in my diary. I didn't always record the information in my diary because I was extremely security conscious of her safety and I was cautious about what I wrote in my diary because it was frequently subpoenaed for production. I feared that information recorded might jeopardise her safety.
- 46 I knew that the SDU was compiling a log and noting that they had spoken to me and had passed on information provided by "RHS 3838". I knew that log was protected and secure.
- 47 On around [REDACTED] 2006, I was advised that [REDACTED] had sent a letter to the DPP. The letter made it obvious that he wanted to "roll over". Shortly after this, I returned to Purana to take charge of the roll-over of [REDACTED]. I subsequently was also in charge of the roll-over of [REDACTED] and of the information gleaned from them. Most of this information related to murders. This was handed to the respective Purana Taskforce crew that had previous carriage of the particular murder [REDACTED] murders went to [REDACTED]
- 48 On 6 February 2006, Mario Condello was murdered. I attended the scene.
- 49 On [REDACTED] 2006, [REDACTED] was taken out of prison, signed into my custody and taken to a secure location. He remained in my custody at a secure location for 28 days while he

made a number of statements to various Purana investigators in relation to various murders and corruption.

50 [REDACTED] was legally represented during the period that he was taken out of custody to give statements. I am not aware of Ms Gobbo ever acting for [REDACTED]

51 On 19 February 2006, Detective Sergeant Bateson called me to say that he had received a call from Ms Gobbo in which she said that [REDACTED] may want to talk to police.

52 Based on a review of my diary, I believe that I was acting head of the Purana Taskforce between around 19 June 2006 and 20 July 2006. My diary records that I received information from the SDU on the following dates:

- (a) 21 June 2006;
- (b) 27 June 2006;
- (c) 28 June 2006;
- (d) 30 June 2006; and
- (e) 12 July 2006.

53 The information received from the SDU between 19 June 2006 and 20 July 2006 was drug intelligence. I believe that the source of the information was Ms Gobbo.

54 On 3 July 2006, I passed on the information I received on 30 June 2006 to the AFP.

55 On 7 July 2006, I received a call from Detective Sergeant Bateson. He had received information from Barwon Prison that Prisoner [REDACTED] was "mouthing off" about Ms Gobbo and that people are rolling and that [REDACTED] was likely to spread this information through the prison system. I passed this information on to the SDU because it was a threat.

56 Based on a review of my diary, I believe that I was acting head of the Purana Taskforce between 29 September 2006 and 13 October 2006. My diary records that I received information from the SDU on the following dates:

- (a) 29 September 2006;
- (b) 9 October 2006;
- (c) 10 October 2006; and
- (d) 11 October 2006.

- 57 The information received from the SDU between 29 September 2006 and 11 October 2006 was also drug intelligence. I believe that the source of the information was Ms Gobbo.
- 58 On 10 October 2006, I spoke to the SDU to report to them that Steve Gavanos had been arrested.
- 59 Based on a review of my diary, I believe that I was acting head of the Purana Taskforce between 1 December 2006 and 8 January 2007.
- 60 On 5 December 2006, I received information from Detective Sergeant Anderson. I recorded that information in my diary. The information was that Karam wanted weapons for possible hits on Danny Galea, MB (name unknown), Jake Simmons and Michael Bayani. Karam suspects he is being followed. Also, Horty Mokbel wants weapons and bullets to have [REDACTED] killed if bailed.
- 61 This information, if true, would have been a dramatic escalation by Karam and associates, who were essentially drug dealers. They were not known to have been involved in any murders. At the time I received this information, I was told by the SDU that their assessment was that this information may have been a test of Ms Gobbo. By this they meant that if Police were suddenly to act on this information, they would know that Ms Gobbo was informing on them.
- 62 On 11 December 2006 at 11.00am, I attended a briefing with Deputy Commissioner Overland. My diary doesn't record why I attended a briefing, but I suspect that I had been asked to give him a briefing by his staff officer. My diary records that I gave the Deputy Commissioner a briefing about a number of matters relevant to the Purana Taskforce, including threats made to Ms Gobbo. My diary doesn't record the specific threats that I

referred to, but I believe that in particular, I raised with him the information in paragraph 60, above. Deputy Commissioner Overland asked me to contact the SDU to ask whether Ms Gobbo could be "eased out?"

- 63 I returned to the office at 11.30am and called ^{Sandy White-O} . I asked him whether Ms Gobbo could be eased out. He said that *"he had already begun the process. Is not passing on info and had told her the same."*
- 64 I don't recall receiving any further information from the SDU in the period to 8 January 2007 while I was the acting head of Purana.
- 65 Based on a review of my diary, I believe that I was acting head of the Purana Taskforce between 20 March 2007 and 3 April 2007. My diary records that I received information from the SDU on 20 March 2007.
- 66 The information was general information about a number of matters, including Karam, Horthy and Milad Mokbel. I believe that the source of the information was Ms Gobbo.
- 67 In March 2007, Detective Inspector O'Brien met with Carl Williams in prison to take a statement. The statement implicated Dale in the Hodson murders.
- 68 On 22 March 2007, I attended a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Overland, Detective Superintendent Hollowood, Detective Superintendent Blayney, Detective Acting Superintendent Cecchin. I advised Overland of the progress of Carl Williams' statement. Deputy Commissioner Overland said that he thought a taskforce should be established to investigate the murder of the Hodsons and Dale's possible involvement.
- 69 On 23 March 2007, I was told that I was to lead the taskforce that had been the subject of the meeting on 22 March. This ultimately became the Petra Taskforce.
- 70 On 1 April 2007, ^{PI} [REDACTED] called me to tell me that he had possibly located *"the call"*. To the best of my recollection, Williams' unsigned statement referred to a telephone discussion between him and Dale in 2004, which was said to have taken place during a call between Ms Gobbo and Williams.

- 71 After I spoke to [REDACTED] I went to the Special Projects Unit to listen to the call that he had located. The call took place on 27 February 2004 at 10.54pm between Ms Gobbo and Williams. After some time, Ms Gobbo puts Dale on the phone. In the call, Dale referred to Williams as his "buddy". I immediately recognised Dale's voice because I was Dale's boss at Brunswick in 2001.
- 72 Taskforce Petra was established on 16 April 2007. I was the initial Officer in charge. Taskforce Petra was initiated because it was obvious that many agencies were involved in the investigation of the Hodson murders and no one was bringing all the information together. These agencies included Victoria Police (Purana, Ceja, ESD, Homicide), AFP, ACC, OPI and [REDACTED]. Petra was a Victoria Police Operation that was oversighted by the OPI.
- 73 On around 24 April 2007, I prepared the initial weekly update, which was designed to set out each of the members of the Petra Taskforce and a summary of the status of a number of aspects of the investigation.
- 74 In the period that I was in charge of the Petra Taskforce, I prepared a number of weekly updates. I presented these updates to the Petra Steering Committee, which comprised Deputy Commissioner Overland, Graham Ashton (OPI) and Commander Cornelius.
- 75 I recall having discussions with Deputy Commissioner Overland where he stated that we should use Ms Gobbo as a witness, relative to the Hodson murders. I was opposed as I feared this would ultimately lead to her identification as a human source. I recall discussing this with Deputy Commissioner Overland on more than one occasion but I do not recall specific dates.
- 76 On 10 May 2007 at 7.05pm, I met with ^{Sandy White-O} [REDACTED]. I asked him if he could speak with Ms Gobbo to see whether she knew of any involvement of Paul Dale in the burglary and whether Carl Williams was involved in the Hodson murders.
- 77 On 22 May 2007, I attended a meeting with the SDU in relation to Ms Gobbo. My diary records "awaiting IRs". I do not recall what was discussed.

- 78 On 13 July 2007 at 4.00pm, I met with ^{Officer Richards} [redacted] I believe that at this meeting ^{Officer Richards} [redacted] told me that Ms Gobbo was going to be called to give evidence before the OPI. I questioned whether she had told others about the summons and said that I would inform Deputy Commissioner Overland about these matters. I said to ^{Officer Richards} [redacted] that we needed to protect the safety of the source. I was worried that she would walk out of the hearing. I thought that questioning of her may cause us to lose her as a source and I wanted to know who she had discussed IRs within the underworld (e.g. criminals, clients or associates). We had to look after her.
- 79 My primary concern was her safety. If it was discovered that she was a source at this time, it would have led to her death.
- 80 After I met with ^{Officer Richards} [redacted] I had a discussion with Deputy Commissioner Overland in which I told him about my concerns for the safety of Ms Gobbo if she was called to give evidence before the OPI. At some point prior to the 19 July 2007, Deputy Commissioner Overland told me that "*they know her status*". This was possibly in one conversation or in multiple conversations between 13 July and 19 July 2007.
- 81 At some point between 13 July and 19 July 2007, I was asked to attend the OPI hearing concerning Ms Gobbo. I don't recall who asked me to attend or why I was asked to attend.
- 82 On 19 July 2007, I attended the OPI to observe Ms Gobbo give her evidence. Attending the OPI to view a hearing is extremely unusual. It is the first and only time that I have done so. As I understand it, those hearings are usually in secret, meaning that no one like me would normally be there. I was not in the hearing room. I sat in the head of the OPI's office and viewed the hearing on his computer. I was the only person in the room and I do not know whether Ms Gobbo was aware that I was observing the hearing. I took notes in my diary.
- 83 On 3 August 2007, I attended an informal retirement party for Detective Inspector O'Brien. During the party, I had a discussion with Detective Inspector Adrian White about a threat to kill Jason Kelly. There is a Jason Kelly at Purana, however, we subsequently found out that the threat related to a different Jason Kelly. Because the threat was coming from a criminal called Bayeh and the fact that Ms Gobbo would see him from time to time, I felt that it was

prudent to advise the SDU ^{Sandy White-O} so that arrangements could be made with regard to her safety, as I was concerned for her wellbeing and I considered her to be vulnerable in the circumstances.

- 84 On 6 August 2007, I had a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Overland, Biggin, Blayney and ^{Sandy White} in relation to the threat against Jason Kelly and my concerns about Ms Gobbo's safety.
- 85 On 13 August 2007, I arranged for two Purana detectives to attend a meeting where Ms Gobbo was to attend. This was done following the recent threat in relation to Bayeh and was done to provide security for Ms Gobbo.
- 86 On 17 August 2007, I returned to the OPI for a second session of hearings regarding Ms Gobbo. Shortly after the hearing commenced, Ms Gobbo requested an adjournment so that she could speak to me. Before she asked to speak with me, I was unaware that she knew I was observing the hearing. I spoke with her for a short period and advised her to get a lawyer to assist her at the hearing. When the hearing resumed, she asked Mr Fitzgerald to adjourn the hearing so that she could get legal representation, which he did. This is the last time I attended an OPI hearing to observe Ms Gobbo give evidence.
- 87 This is one of only a couple of times that I spoke with Ms Gobbo in person.
- 88 Once Jim O'Brien retired, I was removed from the Petra Taskforce and returned to head up Purana. From this date until I retired in April 2008, I had discussions with representatives of the SDU in which they reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. My diary records that I received information from the SDU on the following dates:
- (a) 29 August 2007;
 - (b) 30 August 2007;
 - (c) 31 August 2007;
 - (d) 4 September 2007;

(e) 10 September 2007; and

(f) 4 October 2007

89 The information was predominantly general information concerning criminal activities of the Mokbels.

90 On 25 September 2007, I spoke to [redacted] of the Purana Taskforce. I believe that [redacted] was a recent arrival to the Taskforce. My memory is that [redacted] stated that he knew the identity of 3838 and that he knew or had previously worked with Paul Dale and Dennis Linehan. Dale was a person of interest to the Petra Taskforce and Linehan was a close friend of Dale. My diary records that I told [redacted] to be wary of disclosing the identity of Ms Gobbo (referred to as 3838 in my diary) as a source if he was contacted by either Dale or Linehan.

91 By this time, I had received information on numerous occasions about threats to Ms Gobbo's safety. I had also attended her evidence at the OPI and had personally observed her demeanour. I recall on a number of occasions saying to the officers in the SDU that they had to stop her being a human source as in my view, it was inevitable that she would be murdered. On a number of occasions, I said to ^{Sandy Why} words to the effect that she should be deregistered and relocated.

92 I may have received further information from Ms Gobbo via the SDU after 4 October 2007, however I have no recollection of doing so. I have reviewed my Police Diaries to 7 November 2007 and have not identified any further entries that include information provided to me by the SDU where I believe the source of the information was Ms Gobbo. I have not been provided with my police diary from 8 November 2007 to my retirement, which I have been told has not been located. I believe that my missing diary would record further information that I received from the SDU where the source of the information was Ms Gobbo.

93 On 9 October 2007 at 10.00am, I met with Detective Inspector Waddell from Taskforce Briars, which was investigating the murder of Charters-Abbott. This involved corruption issues with two former police officers, who were known to Ms Gobbo. Waddell raised the

possibility of using Ms Gobbo as a witness for Briars. I said that I was strongly against using Ms Gobbo as a witness in any capacity. We were taught at Detective Training School that informers should never, ever be a witness.

Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

Question 3

94 I refer to my answer to question 2, above. I was aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information to Detective Sergeant Bateson in 2005 and I became aware that she was registered as a human source in around December 2005.

Question 4

95 I refer to my answer to question 2, which sets out conversations that I had with various people who were aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police and the approximate date that I became aware of their knowledge. Specifically, I believe that the following people were aware, prior to the end of 2012, that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police:

- (a) Assistant Commissioner Overland and Commander Cornelius from Crime Command;
- (b) the members of the SDU;
- (c) some members of the Purana Taskforce and Petra Taskforce; and
- (d) Graham Ashton; and
- (e) Inspector Waddell and some members of the Briars Taskforce.

96 I believe that Graham Ashton was aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police because he attended briefing meetings for the Petra, Purana and Briars Taskforces, along with Simon Overland and Luke Cornelius. I attended these meetings in my capacity as head of Petra or head of Purana. Graham Ashton attended the Petra briefing meeting in an OPI oversight capacity. As he was already present, my recollection is that he also remained for the Briars and Purana briefings. During these

meetings Ms Gobbo (or 3838) was discussed. I do not know when he became aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police.

97 I believe that Inspector Waddell was aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police based on our conversation recorded in my diary on 9 October 2007. I do not know when he became aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police.

98 I recall that I told Detective Sergeant Solomon and Detective Senior Constable Davey that Ms Gobbo was a human source. They wanted to put Ms Gobbo before the ACC. I told them that she was a source so that they knew the risks of doing so. I don't recall when this discussion took place, however, it must have been after the Petra Taskforce was established.

Question 5

99 I don't know who was involved in the authorisation or continued authorisation of the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

100 I believe that the SDU were responsible for the registration and management of high risk human sources, including Ms Gobbo. I believe that the SDU reported to a Detective Superintendent and ultimately to Assistant Commissioner Overland.

Question 6

101 I recall the following three conversations or meetings with Ms Gobbo that are set out below. I may have had other interactions with her, but I don't recall them at this time.

102 On 3 September 2004, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo about [REDACTED] and an [REDACTED]

103 I recall attending a dinner with Ms Gobbo, Jim O'Brien and the SDU. My recollection is Jim O'Brien asked me to attend and that this dinner was a form of welfare support for Ms Gobbo. I can't recall the date or the location of this dinner.

104 I also spoke with Ms Gobbo during the OPI hearing on 17 August 2007. I refer to my answer to question 2, above.

Question 7

105 I refer to my answer to question 2, above.

Question 8

106 I refer to my answer to question 2, above.

Concerns in relation to use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

Question 9

107 I am not aware of any concerns being raised as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source.

Question 10

108 Save than for concerns as to Ms Gobbo's safety (which are set out in my answer to question 2, above), I am not aware of any concerns being raised as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

109 As Ms Gobbo was being managed by the SDU, I understood that issues such as legal professional privilege were being dealt with by them. I did not have any concerns about the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source because I was comfortable that the SDU was managing the relationship with the source, including any specific issues that arose because she was a lawyer.

Question 11

110 I am not aware of any discussion within Victoria Police about the obligation of disclosure in relation to material concerning the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

Other relevant mattersQuestion 12

- 111 Between 1991 and 1993, I was a Detective Sergeant at the Spectrum Taskforce. This taskforce was formed to investigate a series of child abductions where an offender called "Mr Cruel" by the press would commit an aggravated burglary, tie up the family members, select a young female and abduct them. He would then assault them at an unknown location and release them. The last offence involved a 13 year old girl. She was not released and was in fact murdered.
- 112 This series of offences caused considerable alarm within the community. During the course of the taskforce, I was contacted by phone by two judges and two barristers who identified themselves but asked to be treated as anonymous, which I did. They supplied information on persons who they believed may possibly be Mr Cruel. In each case, I submitted an Information Report, not naming them and kept my word that they would be treated as anonymous. I do not recall the names of the judges and barristers who provided this information to me.
- 113 None of these people were registered as human sources and to the best of my knowledge, they only provided the one piece of information to Victoria Police.
- 114 Mr Cruel was never apprehended.

Question 13

- 115 During my 29 year career at Victoria Police, I received a lot of training. Not all of the training I received related to the six topics identified in question 13. The most relevant training that I received in relation to the six topics was at the Victoria Police Academy, as a recruit in 1979 and when I completed the Detective Training School in 1986.

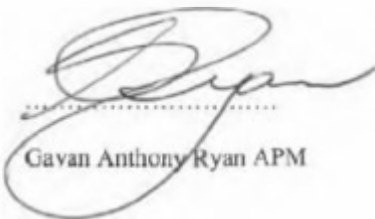
Question 14

- 116 I have read the High Court judgment in which the conduct of Victoria Police was described as reprehensible. I make no criticism of the High Court but it hurts to hear that because, to

my knowledge and in my opinion, no one I worked with during my time at the Purana Taskforce did anything unethical or unlawful. I am proud to have led a team of wonderful men and women who gave everything for each other and the people of Australia.

- 117 I would work on Purana again in a millisecond. Purana was the highlight of my career. It was immensely stressful, with life and death decisions made on a continual basis. On my final day as a Victorian Police Officer in 2008, I gave a farewell speech. I said of myself, "There is no petrol in the tank," and whilst that is commonly said at send-offs, I then added "There are not even any fumes left in the tank!" The fact is I gave everything to Purana and the members gave me everything in return.

Dated: 13 June 2019



Gavan Anthony Ryan APM

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