

**Royal Commission****into the Management of Police Informants****Statement of James Michael O'Brien**

1. My full name is James Michael O'Brien. I am employed as a General Manager. I was previously employed by Victoria Police.
2. I make this statement in response to a request from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants dated 8 March 2019.

**Educational background and employment history (Q1)**

3. I joined Victoria Police on 2 February 1977 and retired from Victoria Police on 1 September 2007.
  4. I graduated from the Police Academy, Glen Waverley in June 1977. I was placed sixth in a Squad of 23 personnel. I was then stationed for short periods as a Uniform Constable at Cheltenham, Brighton and Russell Street Police Stations. I then performed duty at the following locations:
    - a) October 1977 to November 1978: Constable, Melbourne District Traffic and Patrol Division during which time I performed a secondment to the Russell Street Crime Cars.
    - b) November 1978 to November 1981: Constable at Mount Waverley Police Station.
    - c) November 1981 to October 1984: Detective Constable at Russell Street C.I.B.
    - d) During 1982 I completed a three month secondment to the Racing Squad as a Detective Senior Constable.
    - e) August 1982 to October 1984: Detective Senior Constable at Operation Bourke.
    - f) October 1984 to November 1985: Detective Senior Constable at Richmond CIB.
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- g) November 1985 to December 1987: Detective Senior Constable at Tactical Investigation Group.
  - h) December 1987 to March 1988: Detective Senior Constable at National Crime Authority.
  - i) March 1988 to July 1991: Detective Senior Constable at Homicide Squad/Ty-Eyre Task Force, promoted to Detective Sergeant on 9 January 1989. From April 1991 to June 1991 I performed Uniform Sergeant Duties at Caulfield Police Station.
  - j) July 1991 to 1997: Detective Sergeant in Charge at Hamilton C.I.B.
  - k) 1997 to June 2001: Detective Senior Sergeant (Relieving) in charge at Frankston, Parkdale, Springvale and Chelsea C.I.B.
  - l) June 2001 to 8/1/2002: Detective Senior Sergeant/Acting Detective Inspector at C.I.B. Drug Squad.
  - m) 8 January 2002 to 13 September 2005: Detective Senior Sergeant/Acting Detective Inspector at Major Drug Investigation Division.
  - n) 13 September 2005 to 1 September 2007: Detective Inspector/Acting Inspector at Purana Task Force. Promoted to Inspector on 6 February 2007.
5. I have completed the following police education:
- a) Detective Training School 1982
  - b) Sergeants Course 1989
  - c) Accident Investigation Techniques 1990
  - d) Station Management Course 1993
  - e) CIB Fire Investigation Course 1994
  - f) Brief Managers Course 1997
  - g) Victoria Police Discipline Investigators Course 2000
  - h) Victoria Police Clandestine Laboratory Safety Course

- i) United States Drug Enforcement Administration – Advanced Money Laundering Course, 2004
  - j) Australian Federal Police Management of Serious Crime Course 34, 2005
  - k) United States Department of Justice – Drug Enforcement Administration Drug Unit Commanders Academy Quantico Virginia 2005
  - l) Australian Institute of Police Management – Police Management Development Program - Graduate Certificate in Applied Management 2005
6. In addition, I have completed the following education external of policing:
- a) Curtin University, Contract Law 1999
  - b) Harvard Business School, Strategic Negotiation 2013
  - c) Swinburne University, Masters of Business Administration 2016
7. I have received the following medals and commendations:
- a) Victoria Police Service Medal, 2012
  - b) National Medal, 2012
  - c) National Medal 1<sup>st</sup> clasp, 2012
  - d) Victoria Police Service Medal 2<sup>nd</sup> clasp, 2012
  - e) Victoria Police Service Medal 3<sup>rd</sup> clasp, 2012
  - f) Crime Department Commendation Citation, 2002
  - g) Crime Department Commendation Citation – Purana Task Force, 2011
8. I have also been recognised by:
- a) the NSW Police Force State Crime Command, for my assistance in a joint investigation;
  - b) then Premier Steve Bracks for the work of the Purana Task Force; and
  - c) Former Senator the Hon Chris Ellison for my contribution to the work of the National Working Group on the Prevention of the Diversion of Precursor Chemicals into Illicit Drug Manufacture.

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

9. For the purpose of answering this question, I have reviewed my Official Diaries and other documents that I have referred to below. I have not had access to my Victoria Police emails since I retired in 2007. While I do not recall sending or receiving any emails that would be relevant to my statement, I have not had an opportunity to review them.
10. As a Detective Senior Sergeant at the Drug Squad and later the Major Drug Investigation Division (M.D.I.D.), I was aware of Ms Gobbo's name through the media and word of mouth from staff around the office. In a general sense, I expect that Ms Gobbo would have been involved in many cases from the Drug Squad/M.D.I.D. as I understood that this was the area of law in which she practised.
11. More specifically, in August 2001, I was part of a team that executed a search warrant as part of Task Force Kayak at the residence of Milad Mokbel. Milad Mokbel was arrested and charged with drug trafficking as part of this investigation. Ms Gobbo acted for Milad Mokbel in relation to the charges arising out of this arrest.
12. At the time Milad Mokbel was arrested, what was colloquially known as the "gangland war" was well underway. My view was (and still is) that the murders were a mere symptom of an underlying issue, which was the control of major drug production and drug trafficking by organised crime syndicates. Organised criminal identities were at war with each other over the control of precursors; taking out competition, maintaining market share and the like. My view was (and still is) that taking the money out of drug related crime reduces the ability of organised crime syndicates to influence and corrupt the system. As I considered that all of the gangland killings were to do with the drug trade, I believed that targeting the money that organised crime syndicates received from the drug trade was the best way to stop the killing.
13. On 26 October 2001, Detective Inspector Newman requested that I take over the Drug Squad Unit 2. Unit 2 was the Clandestine Laboratory Unit. Within Unit 2 was the diversion desk, which was a national initiative set up to combat with the diversion of precursor chemicals and equipment into illicit drug production, such



as pseudoephedrine. I was asked to take over at a difficult time for the Drug Squad. This is because just before I took over Unit 2, Detective Sergeant Rosenes and Detective Senior Constable Paton had been charged with drug trafficking offences that stemmed from their corrupt relationship with informers. These charges led to a review of the Drug Squad and its replacement with the M.D.I.D.

14. At this time, the whole Drug Squad was under review. I suspected that other officers were the subject of the ongoing internal inquiries, but I was not aware of which officers were involved. This meant there was a complete lack of trust in the squad. I was asked, from time to time, to source and provide documentary material, including diaries of various officers. From a management point of view, morale was poor and it was a very difficult environment to work in.
15. In [REDACTED] 2002, I attended a clandestine laboratory [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who had originally fled the scene but had then returned, gave himself up. During questioning [REDACTED] said that he would like to cooperate with police but that he was more scared of the people he was working with than he was of us. He was arrested and was released on bail the following day. This arrest was under Operation [REDACTED].
16. Shortly after taking over the management of Unit 2, I became aware that then Detective Senior Constable Miechel was a nominated handler for Terence Hodson, who was a registered source known as SCS 4/390. Terence Hodson was an invaluable source of information. The information he provided led to many arrests.
17. On the morning of 22 July 2002, I returned from a period of leave and had a discussion with Detective Sergeant Duggan about whether there were any carry over issues. Duggan raised some concerns regarding the handling of Hodson and in particular, whether Miechel was too close to the source.
18. At 9.40am, I spoke with Paul Dale in relation to the handling of Terence Hodson. I recorded in the diary that there was a *"perception Senior Detective Miechel being too familiar with same"*. At 5.00pm that day, I spoke to Miechel regarding the handling of Hodson. I said that there was a *"need for objectivity and professionalism in dealing with"* Hodson. Dale was also present for this conversation. My diary records that there was no input from Miechel to the

conversation. I advised Miechel of the intended course and proper practices of investigations resulting from information supplied by Hodson and advised him to set up a meeting with view to a full debrief of Hodson, the preparation of an investigation plan and full costing profile. My diary records that *"Detective Sergeant Dale to arrange same"*.

19. On 7 August 2002, I met with Terence and Christine Hodson at the Jika Motel, Fairfield. The Hodsons gave me a chart setting out their knowledge of Melbourne's drug dealers. I met with Hodson on a number of occasions in the second half of 2002. When I met with Hodson, I was usually accompanied by Paul Dale, David Miechel or Detective Sergeant Graeme Sayce.
20. On 27 January 2003, I returned to work after around six weeks of leave. When I returned, I was told that Hodson's informer number had changed to 4/456.
21. I have read paragraph 26 of the statement that Paul Dale has provided to the Royal Commission. I was made aware of the circumstances leading to the change of Hodson's informer number. However, I do not recall having a conversation with Dale immediately after the court hearing. Having reviewed my diaries, I believe that I was on leave at the time and believe that I didn't learn of the change in Hodson's informer number until I returned from leave.
22. At this time, I had oversight of Operation [REDACTED] which related to a clandestine laboratory detected at [REDACTED] that was being run by [REDACTED]<sup>P11</sup> and one of his associates for [REDACTED]. On [REDACTED] 2003, this operation concluded with the arrest of a number of people including [REDACTED].  
[REDACTED] I am aware that Ms Gobbo provided advice to [REDACTED]<sup>P11</sup> and one of his associates. My diary records that at 1.25pm, I spoke to Sharon Holt and was advised that [REDACTED] had already spoken to Solicitor Gobbo.
23. On 16 June 2003, I made an entry in my diary about the commencement of Operation Galop. Operation Galop was an investigation involving the manufacture of a pill press ordered by Colleen O'Reilly, who was an associate of Azzam Ahmed. The investigations undertaken in Operation Galop led to the discovery of a safe house located at 23 Dublin Street, East Oakleigh.

24. Intelligence indicated that Colleen O'Reilly was to travel to New South Wales (NSW) with \$700,000 to purchase a large commercial quantity of ecstasy tablets, which were to be brought back to Melbourne. Crime command NSW and Victoria were in communication about this transaction.
25. I was on leave at this time, however, on 26 September 2003, I had a number of telephone conversations with Detective Inspector Shawyer and then Detective Sergeant Dale about Operation Galop. Commander Purton had advised that he had spoken to his counterpart in NSW and that the decision had been made to apprehend O'Reilly in NSW with the drugs and cash at the transaction point.
26. On 27 September 2003 at 9.32pm, I made a record in my diary "*Notification from Dale re 23 Dublin Street East Oakleigh*". Dale had called me to say that the operation at 23 Dublin St had been compromised and David Miechel was at the Epworth Hospital with injuries sustained from a dog bite as he had somehow been caught up in an incident at that address. At the time of the conversation, I had no idea how serious it was. Dale did not tell me that a police dog had bitten Miechel nor that Hodson was found at the scene. I told Dale to let the transaction referred to above at paragraph 25 to go ahead the next day, as planned. Dale told me that intelligence indicated that this was now being put off until Monday.
27. On 28 September 2003, at 4.38am, I spoke with Acting Detective Superintendent Tom Shawyer, who told me the details of the incident at the 23 Dublin Street address and of Miechel's probable criminal involvement in a burglary at that address.
28. On 17 October 2003, Acting Detective Superintendent Shawyer and I met with Hodson at his address. I told him that the police informer relationship was at an end and that concerns about his safety were to be directed to me or Inspector Daly. I advised Hodson that it was open for him to provide assistance in relation to the incident at 23 Dublin Street, however this offer was conditional and he '*would no doubt be aware of what the conditions would be*'. By that, I meant that he would need to cooperate and provide a statement making full admissions.
29. On 5 December 2003, Detective Superintendent Biggin advised me of the arrest and charging of Dale, Miechel and Hodson in relation to the burglary at 23 Dublin Street. At 12.15pm, I informed the rest of the M.D.I.D squad of these arrests.

30. People within the M.D.I.D. were devastated by the news of these arrests. What Miechel and Dale did was a complete betrayal of all of the rest of us working in the M.D.I.D., particularly after the corruption that had been uncovered within the Drug Squad in 2001. The work that we had done since then to restore our reputation was completely undone. Other areas of the force and external agencies assumed that corruption was still rife within the squad.
31. This had a profound effect on morale and our professional relationship with other law enforcement agencies. I recall seeing officers under my command in tears. A number of officers left the M.D.I.D. as a result.
32. The betrayal by Miechel and Dale also affected me personally. I contemplated walking away from the M.D.I.D. In the end though I decided to continue. My view at the time was that the best way to answer your critics is to get back up and keep working. I tried to rebuild and convey this attitude to the squad.
33. During this time, the gangland war was continuing. The Purana Task Force had been established in May 2003 to investigate the gangland murders. Purana was also investigating drug related activities, including clandestine laboratories in so far as they related to the murder investigations. One of my teams had been seconded to the Purana Task Force for this reason.
34. By early 2004, a whole series of criminals including [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had been charged and many were on bail for serious drug offences.
35. On 13 April 2004, a meeting took place between Detective Senior Constable Bartlett, Detective Senior Constable Robertson and Tony Mokbel and Emidio Navarolli. Detective Senior Constable Bartlett was under my command at the M.D.I.D and Detective Senior Constable Robertson was a member of the homicide squad working at Purana. My diary notes record that at 4.45pm, Superintendent Biggin and I attended a debrief with Detective Senior Constable Bartlett and Detective Senior Constable Robertson. I made a record of the debrief discussion in my diary:
  - a) Tony Mokbel wanted to broker a guilty plea on behalf of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and another associate.



- b) He said that they were all willing to go to gaol for a short period on amended charges. If all players as mentioned went to gaol for a short time, the killings would stop and homicide could say that they had won back the streets.
  - c) If not, Mokbel said he would drag on legal proceedings for years, there would be allegations made against everyone and he would push for a Royal Commission.
36. I made the following note in my diary: *"Obvious from arrogance of Mokbel – he believes he is above the law and in control of Williams and others, is at the top of the tree in the drug distribution scene in Victoria".*
  37. I recall listening to the recording of this conversation. This reinforced the view that I had always held that to get to the bottom of the murders you had to get to the bottom of the drugs and the money. It also further illustrated the level of control and influence that Mokbel believed he held. Tony Mokbel's attitude further motivated me to put a coordinated investigation plan together to unravel Mokbel's criminal enterprise.
  38. On 16 May 2004, Terry and Christine Hodson were murdered. The following day, I attended the Homicide squad to hand over the informer management files in relation to Terry and Christine Hodson and the chart Terry had prepared.
  39. I knew both Terry and Christine Hodson and had met with them personally on a number of occasions. Terry I would best describe as a 'likeable rogue'. He was a prolific supplier of information and had been critical in the arrests of a number of people over many years. I felt not enough was done to protect him.
  40. In around August 2004, I was receiving feedback from the floor that Ms Gobbo's involvement with her clients went beyond a professional relationship. The feedback that I was receiving suggested that Ms Gobbo's contact with her client went beyond that of a usual lawyer-client relationship. On 10 August 2004, I asked members of the Drug Squad to submit IRs regarding contact with Ms Gobbo in support of a possible telephone intercept application.
  41. To the best of my memory, no IRs were submitted and I am not aware of any application for a telephone intercept being made.

42. In 2004 and 2005 I attended a number of training courses in Australia and in the USA regarding anti-money laundering and Task Force policing. In February 2005, as part of the Management of Serious Crime Course conducted by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and sponsored by the Australian Crime Commissioners, I wrote a paper on Task Force policing. This paper went to Commissioners and others in Command. In the paper, I put forward that there should be a standing Task Force on organised crime. One of my observations was that Victoria Police had always been reactionary, in that it would assemble a Task Force in *response* to serious crime. I considered that it would be a better approach to have a standing Task Force to retain organisational knowledge and take a proactive approach to organised crime.
43. In the second half of 2005, I spent some time as the officer in charge of the Purana Task Force in a temporary capacity. I was relieving Detective Inspector Gavan Ryan.
44. On 31 August 2005 at 2.03 pm, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Steven Mansell, a member of the M.D.I.D, regarding a conversation he had with Ms Gobbo in which Ms Gobbo had indicated a willingness to assist police in relation to Mokbel. Mansell informed me that he had initially spoken to Ms Gobbo at court, then in a police vehicle, and that both conversations had been tape recorded. Mansell told me that Ms Gobbo might be willing to speak to Detective Sergeant Flynn as she knew and trusted him.
45. I recall that Detective Sergeant Mansell had been with Detective Senior Constable Paul Rowe when his conversation with Ms Gobbo took place. Following their return to the M.D.I.D. office I either advised Mansell and Rowe to contact the Source Development Unit (SDU) or I spoke with someone in the SDU myself. This was the first time I became aware that Gobbo wanted to speak to police.
46. Prior to the creation of the SDU, the M.D.I.D. was responsible for its own risk assessment with regard to the recruitment of a human source. The creation of the SDU meant that the M.D.I.D. played no role in risk assessment, source registration or source handling. To my mind, this was a significant improvement over the old system, as it meant that specialist officers were able to manage the safety of the human source as well as the flow of the information. This

outsourced significant risk from M.D.I.D. to the SDU. To my mind, this was why the SDU was set up. This meant that officers in the M.D.I.D. could focus on operational work.

47. My diary records that after I spoke with Detective Sergeant Mansell, I attended the Purana Office and spoke to Detective Inspector Ryan about issues relating to Ms Gobbo. I cannot recall the precise details of the conversation.
48. On 12 September 2005 at 1.57pm I attended Assistant Commissioner Overland's office at 412 St Kilda Road, Melbourne. At that time I had a regular meeting with Overland every Monday at 2pm. The scheduling of this regular meeting changed over time and my diaries record when they occurred. At the meeting on 12 September 2005, I provided Overland with a Purana Task Force update as per the written weekly sheet and had a discussion with him relating to Ms Gobbo. While I did not record it in my diary, I believe that Assistant Commissioner Overland asked me to assume formal management of the Purana Task Force at this meeting.
49. On 13 September 2005, I commenced duty at the Purana Task Force and became the officer in charge on a permanent basis at around the same time.
50. At this time, there were a number of unsolved murders, possibly linked to organised crime that were being investigated by the Purana Task Force:
  - a) Charlie Hegyalji on 23 November 1998 at Jones North;
  - b) Joseph Quadara on 28 May 1999 at Hawksburn;
  - c) Dimitros Belias on 9 September 1999 at Melbourne;
  - d) Francesco Benvenuto on 8 May 2000 at Beaumaris;
  - e) Dino Dibra on 14 October 2000 at Sunshine;
  - f) George Germanos on 22 March 2001 at Armadale;
  - g) Victor Pierce on 1 May 2002 at South Melbourne;
  - h) Paul Kallipolitis on 12 October 2002 at Sunshine; and
  - i) Istvan (Steve) Gulyas and Duang Chith (Tina) Nhonthachith on 19 October 2003 at Wildwood.





55. To the best of my recollection, this is around the time that Ms Gobbo was registered as a human source. I had no involvement in her registration. This was the role of the SDU.
56. The SDU was responsible for handling Ms Gobbo and all interactions with her as a human source. As the officer in charge of the Purana Task Force, I was to be the single point of contact for all information emanating from Ms Gobbo in relation to my investigations once she was registered as a human source. There were times that the SDU provided other people with information emanating from Ms Gobbo, for example during periods of my absence (due to courses being attended or leave). This role was taken over by the person relieving me who was usually Detective Inspector Gavan Ryan. From time to time, other people from within the Purana Task Force may have received information from Ms Gobbo. However, I am not aware of who else received information from the SDU.
57. The rationale for creating a single point of contact with the SDU was to ensure that the investigating detectives were not in direct contact with the human source and did not know who was the source of information they received. This is referred to as a "sterile corridor" for information between the SDU and investigating detectives. This was a planned response as a result of the recommendations of the Ceja Task Force following the multitude of corruption issues within the former Drug Squad.
58. The "sterile corridor" was put in place to ensure that no investigating officer spoke directly to the source. There are often difficulties with creating a completely "sterile corridor", as in most cases there will be investigators who are aware of a source's identity because these investigators have referred the source to the SDU. This was the case with Ms Gobbo. Even though it may not be possible to achieve a perfect "sterile corridor", attempting to do so is still very important as it removes contact between a source and investigators and reduces the opportunity for corruption of either party.
59. I received information from a number of different members of the SDU. Contact was usually by telephone but sometimes in person. I would make a contemporaneous note of this information in my official police diary, noting that 3838 was the source of the information. On some occasions I would use the

designation "RHS" as I was aware of who the source was. I would relay the information verbally to investigative crew Sergeants within the Purana office or specialist services a short time later, or I would call them with relevant information that might necessitate some investigative action by them or direction or redirection to other specialist areas. My review of my official police diaries reveal that I would receive information sourced from 3838 on most days, sometimes on more than one occasion in a day.

60. The information I received from the SDU was what was referred to as a "hot debrief". This meant that the information was unfiltered by the SDU. Often the information was presented to me in a narrative. It was essentially a "download" of a discussion that I understood they had just had with Ms Gobbo. This meant that often, potentially useful information was embedded with other information that was not useful. When I received the information, it was not clear to me which information was useful and which information was not. I recorded it all in my diary as best as I could, so that I could refer back to it later as necessary.
61. The reason that I was provided with a hot debrief was to prioritise covert support services. By this I mean that I was given access to the intelligence received from the SDU as it was provided so that I could immediately request the tasking of surveillance resources, as appropriate. The nature of drug investigations meant that we needed real-time intelligence.
62. While I was not provided with them, I am aware that the SDU also produced IRs, which were submitted to the Tactical Intelligence Analyst in the ordinary course of things.
63. I have attempted to transcribe all of my diary entries that record information I received from the SDU where I believe the source of that information was Ms Gobbo.<sup>1</sup>
64. There may have been occasions where I spoke to the SDU but did not make a record of it in my diary. However, my usual practice was to record any information received as I received it.

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<sup>1</sup> VPL.0005.0126.0001

65. In paragraphs 69 to 286 of my statement, I have set out information that I received from the SDU where I believe the source of the information was Ms Gobbo. I have not set out all of the information provided by Ms Gobbo, as that is recorded in my diary. Instead, I have set out information that related in some way to the investigations we were undertaking at the time.
66. In a general sense, the information that I received from Ms Gobbo can be divided into three categories:
- a) Some information was of marginal relevance to our investigations. So much information was being provided that it was not uncommon for one of my handwritten diary entries to exceed half a page. It was not targeted intelligence. Because the information was conveyed to me as a "hot briefing", I wrote it all down and didn't consider its value as I was writing. The benefit of this is that it was all recorded in my diary in case I had to go back to it.
  - b) Some information was useful background to assist us to work out relationships between persons of interest. For example, I would regularly receive updates from the SDU about social gatherings that Ms Gobbo had attended. Again, it was unusual for me to task investigating officers with information of this kind for police work.
  - c) Some information was useful intelligence that led to telephone intercepts, surveillance or other enquiries. Where information was used in this manner, I made a record of it in my diary.
67. When I received information from the SDU, I did not turn my mind to whether or not the information supplied by Ms Gobbo was subject to legal professional privilege. My role was to investigate criminal offences. The information that I received from the SDU was considered for its value in investigating criminal offences.
68. I understand legal professional privilege to be certain conversations or instructions between lawyer and client in relation to a legal matter. I do not recall receiving information from the SDU that stood out to me as privileged information.

69. On 22 September 2005, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup>  
<sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the information in my diary. The information was background information in relation to targets and other people of interest.
70. At 2.00 pm on 26 September 2005, I attended a weekly tasking and coordination meeting with Commander Purton (from Crime Command), Assistant Commission Overland and Superintendent Whitmore. Among other things, we discussed two ongoing AFP investigations. I had concerns at this time about a possible compromise within the AFP's Melbourne office.
71. At 4.05 pm, I spoke to Commander Purton in relation to security issues regarding Ms Gobbo. While I don't specifically recall, I believe that the security issues we discussed related to the possible compromise within the AFP and the risk that Ms Gobbo's identity might be disclosed.
72. On 27 September 2005, I attended a meeting with Commander Purton, Detective Inspector Hill, Senior Detective Burrows, Senior Detective Rowe (M.D.I.D.), <sup>Sandy White-O</sup>  
<sup>Sandy White-O</sup> and <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> (SDU) in relation to information provided by Ms Gobbo. I made a record of this meeting in my diary. Ms Gobbo was not identified by name during this meeting. During the meeting, we discussed information that had been received by the SDU in relation to Tony Mokbel. We also discussed resourcing needs and various policing strategies that we might employ.
73. My diary note of this meeting records that Ms Gobbo had said that she could convince <sup>PII</sup> to talk to Dale Flynn. My view at this time was that we did not require Ms Gobbo's assistance to get <sup>PII</sup> to talk. <sup>PII</sup> was already on bail in relation <sup>PII</sup> and was already facing a significant sentence. Also, he had indicated a willingness to talk when we arrested him on <sup>PII</sup> 2002 but had said that he was too scared to do so.
74. Later this day, at 5.55pm, I spoke with Police Officer 1 who informed me that he had been offered \$2 million to make the Operation Kayak tapes 'go missing'. The Operation Kayak tapes were critical evidence against Tony Mokbel and without those tapes the prosecution in his trial would have fallen apart. After this call, the Technical Support Unit conducted a complete audit of the tapes and they were moved to Commander Purton's office.

75. On 30 September 2005, I spoke to <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> about information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I made no record in my diary as to what this information was, other than that it was information regarding "3838". I do not believe any intelligence from Ms Gobbo was discussed. If it was, I would have recorded it in my diary. After this discussion, I had a meeting with Commander Purton, Detective Inspector Hill, Detective Inspector Hardie, Senior Detective Burrows, Senior Detective Rowe and Detective Acting Senior Sergeant Flynn regarding the formulation of Operation Posse.
76. On 12 October 2005, I met with Commander Purton with regard to a request for documents that had been received from the AFP. During this meeting, I updated Commander Purton with the personnel requests that I had made with regard to resourcing Operation Posse. There was a degree of "push-back" and it was taking longer than I had expected to assemble the personnel required to properly launch the operation.
77. On 21 October 2005 at 6.40 am I prepared an Investigation Plan (Terms of Reference)<sup>2</sup> and risk assessment<sup>3</sup> in relation to Operation Posse and spoke to <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> at the office of the M.D.I.D. I received a telephone call from Commander Purton that day and was asked to leave the documents at his office with corrections. The same day at 2.25 pm I was advised by Commander Purton that Task Force Posse was to proceed. I kept a copy of the Terms of Reference document for Purana Operation Posse in the safe in my office at the Purana Task Force and the original was retained by Crime Command.
78. On 2 November 2005, I spoke to <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> who provided information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.
79. On 3 November 2005, I met with Commander Purton and Detective Inspector White in relation to Operation Posse staffing. During this meeting, staffing for Operation Posse was agreed, as set out in my diary.

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<sup>2</sup> VPL.0100.0009.0001

<sup>3</sup> VPL.0005.0096.0004



80. On 9 November 2005, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup>  
<sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> about Ms Gobbo. I have no independent recollection of this conversation.
81. On 14 November 2005, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup>  
<sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. Milad Mokbel had a contact within the AFP who was leaking information.
82. On 21 November 2005, I relocated my office from M.D.I.D. to the Purana Task Force.
83. On 22 November 2005, I held a briefing for Operation Posse. I prepared a briefing document which set out the broad range of investigations to be undertaken by the Purana Taskforce as part of Operation Posse:<sup>4</sup>
- a) Operation Sages – Bassam and Mohammed Oueida
  - b) Operation Quills – [REDACTED] and Paul [REDACTED]
  - c) Operation Posse – [REDACTED]
  - d) Operation Posse – [REDACTED]
  - e) Operation Posse – [REDACTED]
  - f) Operation Posse – [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
  - g) Exploit opportunities to develop RHS and Witnesses eg [REDACTED], prior to appeal.
84. These operations were in addition to a number of outstanding ongoing homicide investigations.
85. In the briefing document, I noted the importance of confidentiality, particularly with regard to Ms Gobbo. The briefing note states that *"RHS issues in this operation are so critical that the risk has been assessed as extreme"*. The registered human source I was referring to was Ms Gobbo.

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<sup>4</sup> VPL.0005.0096.0001

86. Operation Posse was significant because it was the first time that dedicated resources from different disciplines had been co-located. I had dedicated teams of different investigative disciplines at my disposal, which was much more efficient.
87. The Purana Task Force was 'priority one' within Victoria Police at that time. This meant that I received preference over other operations with regard to resourcing. As I said in the briefing note, we had been given the opportunity and means to finally decimate the Mokbel criminal cartel and their influence in this State. Doing so required everyone involved in Operation Posse to work together. I wanted to do what I could to create a strong team environment right from the beginning.
88. On 30 November 2005, I received a telephone call from <sup>Black-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:
- a) Milad Mokbel had 40 litres of ketone and was ready to cook.
  - b) Ms Gobbo was having regular meetings with Robert Karam [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was complaining about lack of money.
  - c) Con Heliotis had requested \$450,000 up front before next trial, possibly the trial of Joe Parisi.
89. On 3 December 2005, I received a call from <sup>Black-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:
- a) Milad Mokbel was under pressure from a Hells Angels member for payment of a \$250,000 debt.
  - b) [REDACTED] but the Mokbels do not know of this debt.
  - c) There was a meeting to be held between [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at midday on [REDACTED] 2005 to discuss the debt situation.

d) Debt owed to [REDACTED] might well be for production of [REDACTED]  
 As <sup>Pill</sup> [REDACTED] was according to RHS 3838 on 30 November 2005 complaining  
 of lack of money and he may have [REDACTED] to get funds.

90. This was useful background information but I did not task any of the investigators to act on it.
91. On 9 December 2005, I attended a meeting with <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> [REDACTED] and <sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. I was told that Tony Mokbel and Mark Lanteri were currently cooking in a premises off a laneway in Brunswick and that they were in possession of 20 litres of BMK received from Shane Moran.
92. After this meeting, I briefed Operation Posse team members on the information received and tasked them accordingly.
93. No arrests resulted from this information.
94. On 10 December 2015, I received a telephone call from <sup>Black-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he provided me with the telephone numbers of Mark Lanteri and Emidio Navarolli which the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.
95. From 14 December 2005 to 1 January 2006, I was on leave.
96. On 3 January 2006 at 5.30pm, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. He reported that [REDACTED] had a meeting in the next 40 minutes to take delivery of something, [REDACTED] then he was to meet with Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. I don't believe that I acted on this intelligence.
97. On 5 January 2006, I attended a meeting with <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [REDACTED] and <sup>Black-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which they reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information provided related to the movement of money by the Mokbels. This was general intelligence and was not something that we could act on at this point.



98. At 3.10pm on 5 January 2006, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo. Ms Gobbo called me to request a change in bail reporting for [PII] and an associate. Ms Gobbo called me directly and in her capacity as lawyer for [PII] and the associate. I told her that I agreed in principle but that she would need to speak to the informant in the matter. In my diary, I referred to her as "Solicitor Nicola Gobbo" as distinct from "RHS" or "3838" to distinguish this contact from her contact with police as a human source.
99. On 12 January 2006, I had a meeting with <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [PII] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:
- a) There was a New Year's Eve party at Tony Mokbel's house.
  - b) [PII] had lost money at the casino [PII]
  - c) [PII] was highly likely to have a [PII]
100. On 16 January 2006, I attended a meeting with Detective Superintendent Blayney and Acting Commander Grant. It was agreed that I would be provided with an additional analyst because we were receiving so much intelligence. We also discussed narrowing the focus of the operation and to look into the opportunity to have [PII]. I proposed focusing on [PII] because of staffing issues. I believed that there was an opportunity with [PII] because he had his [PII]. It was expected that he would plead guilty and would go to gaol. If we could charge him for [PII], then I thought that there was a good prospect that we would be able to convince him to talk.
101. In this period, I was receiving updates from the SDU on a daily basis. While some of the information was helpful intelligence, much of it was background information only. I continued to make a note of it in my diary.
102. I received further intelligence from Ms Gobbo via the SDU on 19, 20, 23 and 24 January 2006. The intelligence provided was not of direct assistance to Operation Posse. I recorded the information that had been provided to me in my diary.
103. On 25 and 26 January 2006, I had discussions with <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [PII] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I

recorded that information in my diary. [REDACTED] was currently [REDACTED] No information was provided with regard to the location of [REDACTED] from which [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]. I was also provided with other information that was not of direct assistance to Operation [REDACTED]

104. On 30 January 2006, I received two telephone calls from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information provided included that:

- a) [REDACTED] was presently being pressured by [REDACTED]
- b) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

105. After receiving this information, we gave urgent consideration as to whether to place an undercover operative at the [REDACTED]. Ultimately, we decided not to do so because we considered the risk to the safety of Ms Gobbo and any undercover operative would be too great.

106. On 1 February 2006, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. The information was that the [REDACTED] was postponed to the weekend of the [REDACTED]. I recorded that information in my diary.

107. On 6 February 2006, I attended the scene of the shooting murder of Mario Condello at 272 North Road, Brighton. This was another gangland related killing which caused concern within the Purana Taskforce and police command about what might follow.

108. On 9 February 2006 at 6.49pm, I had a conversation with <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:

- a) Tony Mokbel had met Mario Condello by chance the previous week.
- b) [REDACTED]
- c) [REDACTED] had a friend called [REDACTED] who had just been released from prison.

109. On 12 February 2006, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup>  
<sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from  
 Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:
- a) [REDACTED]
  - b) [REDACTED] was just about to [REDACTED] and had outlaid a lot of money but  
 had not received the [REDACTED]
110. On 13 February 2006 at 8.40am, I had a telephone conversation with <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup>  
<sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had  
 received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.
111. On 15 February 2006 at 11.05am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup>  
<sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had  
 received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. [REDACTED] had  
 still not received the [REDACTED]
112. On 15 February 2006 at 4.30pm, I made a telephone call to <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup>  
<sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> of the SDU. I made a record of our conversation in my diary. Ms Gobbo  
 was to be tasked with obtaining the current details and phone number of  
 Terrence Chimeri of 47 Pinetree Crescent, Lalor.
113. On 17 February 2006, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup>  
<sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from  
 Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. My diary records that  
*"Karam getting payment today and wanting to proceed with unit also Nicola  
 Gobbo and Vallas seeing O/W/E - will be told to do what is in his own best  
 interest."*
114. On 20 February 2006 at 12.07pm, I had a telephone discussion with <sup>Sandy White-O</sup>  
<sup>Sandy White-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received  
 from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:
- a) Karam had gotten rid of his phone.
  - b) Karam wanted Ms Gobbo to go to Sydney the next weekend.
  - c) Karl Khoder was laundering money.
  - d) [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] and was [REDACTED]

e) Tony Mokbel introduced Ms Gobbo to [REDACTED] in 2000-2001.

115. On 20 February 2006 at 7.45pm, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded in my diary that [REDACTED] was possibly going to a family dinner in [REDACTED]

116. On 21 February 2006 at 3.47pm, I spoke with <sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] of the SDU in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:

- a) [REDACTED] was to meet with Ms Gobbo at 11.15pm-1.00am.
- b) [REDACTED] was getting pressure from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. He had a couple of hours to go. He was up for 40 hours straight.
- c) [REDACTED] would not [REDACTED] as he believed he was under surveillance.

117. On 22 February 2006, I went with Detective Sergeant Bateson to see [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Prison to ask him to provide a statement. This related to an investigation conducted by Detective Sergeant Bateson, not me.

118. On 22 February 2006, I spoke to <sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] on two occasions in relation to information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:

- a) all of [REDACTED] money goes via [REDACTED]
- b) [REDACTED] had no money and will talk.
- c) Mark Lanteri was busy for Tony Mokbel [REDACTED]
- d) Information about the vehicle that [REDACTED] was driving
- e) Information in relation to Horty Mokbel.

119. On 23 February 2006, I spoke to <sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:

- a) Ms Gobbo met with [REDACTED] February 2006 at 7.30pm. [REDACTED] said that he hoped that he came out of this alive.



b) [REDACTED] was doing nothing on the weekend because he had [REDACTED]

c) [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] and was going to [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

120. I was also provided with other information in relation to a cook that Mark Lanteri had finished for Tony Mokbel but that Tony was not happy because it looked like toothpaste.

121. On 24 and 25 February 2006, I received further information from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information reported to me included that:

- a) [REDACTED] was to get [REDACTED]
- b) The cost was [REDACTED]
- c) The shareholders were Milad and Horty Mokbel, Jay Moulkoun and Mario Condello (whose share was taken over by Fred D'Amico).
- d) The 1000 litres of phenyl acetic acid was in Sydney.

122. On 26 February 2006 at 10.17am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. Most of the information provided was general only. The information included that [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] at home [REDACTED] that he is using tomorrow, and that [REDACTED] by Wednesday night at the latest as he has to [REDACTED]

123. While this was useful information, we could not act on it because we did not know where <sup>Pill</sup> [REDACTED] was taking place.

124. On 1 March 2006 at 8.55am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information related to Tony Mokbel's trial, amongst other things.

125. On 2 March 2006 at 1.44pm, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:

- a) Tony Mokbel was meeting with George Williams at Tony's mother's place at 3.00pm on Saturday.
- b) It was possible that Tony was supplying to George Williams, and that he was supplying to Roberta Williams.

126. On 3 March 2006 at 10.20am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. That information included that [REDACTED] no longer had a problem [REDACTED] Ms Gobbo believed [REDACTED] in drug production.

127. On 4 March 2006 at 10.08am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:

- a) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to pay for product he received the previous day.
- b) Ms Gobbo had [REDACTED] and was handing them out to anyone.
- c) In his last <sup>Pil</sup> [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

128. On 6 March 2006 at 8.08am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:

- a) [REDACTED] was [REDACTED]
- b) The meeting took place at [REDACTED] Street.
- c) Jay Malkoun had [REDACTED] available.
- d) [REDACTED] has to collect [REDACTED] that was being repaired.

129. On 6 March 2006, I briefed Paul Rowe to check the CCTV for [REDACTED]

130. On 8 March 2006 at 1.24pm, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary:
- a) Rabi Karam's container of drugs had been freed up on the docks and may be moved the following week.
  - b) Karam was in Adelaide but he was going to Sydney on Thursday and Friday and would be back for [REDACTED]
131. On 11 March 2006 at 10.07am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded in my diary that information that [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
132. At 12.07pm, I made a telephone call to <sup>Green-O</sup>, who told me that [REDACTED] although it did not officially start until [REDACTED] I spoke with Detective Sergeant Kelly at 12.08pm to pass on this information.
133. I received further information from the SDU at 1.43pm, which I also recorded in my diary. The information related to a dinner that Ms Gobbo had attended with a number of persons of interest and the topics of conversation at dinner.
134. On 13, 14 and 15 March 2005, I received information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.
135. On 16 March 2006, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup>  
in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded in my diary information that [REDACTED] planned to do another [REDACTED] night and planned to be there until Tuesday.
136. On 17 March 2006 at 9.55am, I spoke to <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> and  
<sup>Green-O</sup> in relation to information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:
- a) [REDACTED] was somewhere in [REDACTED]
  - b) [REDACTED] had [REDACTED]

137. Later that evening, I received two further calls from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. Nothing was happening that evening as [REDACTED].
138. On 18 March 2006 at 5.20pm, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Bateson, who advised that he had met with Ms Gobbo to *"smooth things over"*. I don't recall this conversation.
139. On 19 March 2006 at 2.33pm, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. Ms Gobbo had received a telephone call from Bedharski, who was going to meet with Ms Gobbo in 5 minutes.
140. On 20 March 2006, Tony Mokbel failed to turn up for his trial. Over the course of the day, I spoke with <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> and received information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I also attended briefings with Crime Command in relation to the Mokbel issue.
141. On 21 March 2006 at 7.46am and at 8.33am, I received telephone calls from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. It was that [REDACTED] was going to [REDACTED] which he was [REDACTED].
142. I received further information from the SDU over the course of the day.
143. On 23 March 2006 at 12.51pm, I spoke with <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information. I believe that the information was received from Ms Gobbo, however, I have no note in my diary to confirm that. I recorded that information in my diary. The information related to Tony Mokbel, his whereabouts and his association with a girl called "Rebecca".
144. On 25 March 2006 at 2.06pm, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in relation to security issues with Ms Gobbo.
145. On 28 March 2006, I attended a meeting with <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> and <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in relation to "3838 issues".



146. On 30 March and on 5 and 6 April, I was provided with further information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.
147. On 7 April 2006 at 1.09pm, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup>  
<sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded in my diary that [REDACTED] had just done [REDACTED] and had another [REDACTED]
148. On 10 April 2006, I received a number of telephone calls from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup>  
<sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded in my diary that [REDACTED] believed he was under surveillance.
149. On 13 April 2006, I received a number of telephone calls from the SDU in which they reported to me information that they had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:
- a) The [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] was an old [REDACTED] shop.
  - b) A new [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] was within [REDACTED]
  - c) It was a building [REDACTED]
  - d) [REDACTED] said the [REDACTED] was "perfect" because there was [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
150. On 14 April 2006 at 1.10am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:
- a) [REDACTED]
  - b) [REDACTED]
  - c) [REDACTED] that he needed to drill a hole in the wall to put up a security camera.
151. On 14 April 2006 at 11.14am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. I was told that [REDACTED] couldn't [REDACTED] because he [REDACTED] which he couldn't

get. I was also told that [REDACTED] was going to put up the security camera later that day.

152. At 11.23am on 16 April 2006, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the following information in my diary:
- a) [REDACTED] went to Bunnings [REDACTED].
  - b) He gave Ms Gobbo the receipt to get rid of.
  - c) He had purchased 50 meters of black plastic; pine square edging; a staple gun; staples and nails. Payment time was 2.28pm.
  - d) He had asked Ms Gobbo to get rid of the receipt. He said that he can't get the [REDACTED] until Tuesday and still had to drill a hole in the wall for the security camera.
  - e) [REDACTED] said to Ms Gobbo that he would come out of [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and would have steak dinner with her.
  - f) He told Ms Gobbo that he was [REDACTED]
153. I provided this information to Detective Sergeant Flynn. Flynn then went to [REDACTED] and located the drug lab, which we then put under surveillance.
154. Locating the lab was a significant breakthrough in the investigation. It meant that all available resources were required and all our efforts were focussed on observing the lab and ensuring that we were ready to make arrests when the timing was right. From this date until [REDACTED] was arrested all members of the Posse investigation were on active duty or on standby for the arrest. The lab was under constant surveillance. I was working extended hours to coordinate the operation and was receiving regular updates.
155. On 17 April 2005 at 5.11pm, I made a call to <sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the information in my diary. [REDACTED] The first was MDMA for [REDACTED] The second was methamphetamine for Milad and Horthy Mokbel.

156. On 18 April 2006 at 9.30am, I received a call from <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the information in my diary. [REDACTED] had said that he was doing [REDACTED] work today. This was code for going into [REDACTED]
157. On 18 April 2006 at 5.00pm, I attended a regular briefing with Assistant Commissioner Overland, Detective Superintendent Blayney and Detective Superintendent Collins. During this meeting, I informed them that [REDACTED] was under surveillance and that he was about to [REDACTED] at any time. My notes refer to a discussion as to a "resolution" regarding [REDACTED]. This is a reference to whether we were going to offer [REDACTED] a plea deal in exchange for his assistance. It was agreed that we would meet with the OPP to discuss this.
158. That evening, I spoke with <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> on two occasions in which he reported to me information about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
159. On 19 April 2006 at 8.16am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the information in my diary. The information was not relevant to the investigation.
160. On 19 April 2006 at 10.12am, I met with <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> <sup>Green-O</sup>, <sup>Green-O</sup> and <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which they reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. It related to a number of different matters:
- a) [REDACTED] father had been diagnosed with cancer and had been given a timeframe - worst case 6 weeks.
  - b) [REDACTED] had never had an accountant - [REDACTED] will have it all.
  - c) [REDACTED] house in [REDACTED] was paid off by [REDACTED]
  - d) The house had since been [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] previous [REDACTED]
  - e) One of [REDACTED] family members had never [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for family.
  - f) Milad has got interview tape re Akl Hammoud.

g) Tony Bayeh's car was pulled over Friday night.

161. At 10.20am,

Sandy White-O

Green-O

Peter Smith-O

and I had a discussion about "interview process". I

don't recall the detail of the discussion, however, based on the later notes in my diary from the same day I believe that we discussed the offer that would be made to [REDACTED] for his cooperation. I had this discussion with the members of the SDU because if he [REDACTED]

162. I have been shown part of an Informer Contact Report (ICR) that records a

meeting that I attended with

Sandy White-O

Peter Smith-O

and Detective Sergeant Flynn at 10.30am on [REDACTED] April 2006. I believe that the meeting referred to in the ICR is the same as the meeting recorded in my diary that is referred to in the preceding paragraph. I don't recall Detective Sergeant Flynn attending this meeting. I do recall discussion of tactics "post arrest", however, as set out above, my recollection is that the "post arrest" discussion was about the kind of offer that would be put to [REDACTED] in exchange for his cooperation. Part of this would have been around what we knew of his personal circumstances. This was based on information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo over a period of time. It was also based on information that we knew from his previous [REDACTED] including that he had previously indicated a willingness to possibly cooperate but that he wouldn't talk because he was more scared of those he was working for than he was of us. Also, [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] which meant that in my view, the threat level for [REDACTED] had diminished somewhat.

163. As I record in my diary, the meeting was to discuss the "interview process".

There was no documented "interview plan" and to the best of my recollection, I received no specific information from Ms Gobbo that was relevant to the intended process. What was intended was to obtain a sentence indication from the DPP and to put this to [REDACTED] as was done.

164. I have been shown part of an Informer Contact Report which records that Ms

Gobbo said to her handler that she believed that for [REDACTED] to roll he had to believe that others [REDACTED] have also been arrested, because of his fear of them. The ICR records that Ms Gobbo also suggested a "soft approach" and she

told the informers which police officers should and should not be present at the arrest. My diary has no record of this information having been provided to me. I do not believe that I was told this information in the meeting referred to above or at any other time. I was not aware of any other person who had any contribution to the composition of the arrest team for [REDACTED] being aware of or using the information Gobbo is said to have provided to the SDU. I did not use this information when I spoke to [REDACTED] after this arrest and I note that:

- a) [REDACTED] were not in custody when [REDACTED] was arrested. In fact, one of the reasons why we wanted [REDACTED] to cooperate was to attempt to secure arrests of [REDACTED]
- b) Tony Mokbel had absconded, which I assumed was well known to [REDACTED]
- c) My approach for getting [REDACTED] to cooperate was the same approach I had used many times before. My view was that offering [REDACTED] the opportunity of a possible significant discount on sentence would be sufficient to secure his cooperation. It could hardly be described as a "soft approach".
- d) Save for Detective Sergeant Flynn, the personnel that Ms Gobbo mentioned in the ICR were not on the Purana Task Force and were not present at the arrest.

165. At 3.00pm on the same day, Assistant Commissioner Overland and I met with OPP Director Paul Coghlan to discuss a plea deal with [REDACTED]. It was agreed that I could go to [REDACTED] with an offer of [REDACTED] years for his full cooperation and admissions. This was an indication of sentence that wouldn't be objected to by the prosecution. However, the final determination on sentence would always be up to the trial judge.

166. At 5.57pm, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the information in my diary. He had received an SMS from Ms Gobbo in which she said that she was not meeting with [REDACTED]. I received a further call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [REDACTED] at 10.45pm in which he reported that no meeting between Ms Gobbo and [REDACTED] had taken place.

167. On 22 April 2006 at 7.41am, I called <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> and advised him that it might be possible to bring arrest forward to after midday on 22 April 2006, due to the time that [REDACTED] had been [REDACTED]
168. At 7.49am, I made a telephone call to Jim Pearson, Forensic Chemist and advised him that there was a possibility that there were 4 x 20 litre reaction vessels and that there had been a purchase of four thermometers. He advised a timeframe of 8-10 hours to cook.
169. At 7.58am, I made a telephone call to Detective Sergeant Flynn and advised him of the above information. I advised him of the decision to conclude the operation as [REDACTED]
170. On [REDACTED] 2006 at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were arrested at the rear of the premises at [REDACTED]. I attended the scene after the arrest. I spoke to [REDACTED] and conducted the [REDACTED]
171. At 3.02pm, I updated <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> about the arrest of [REDACTED]. I arrived back at the office at 3.50pm.
172. At 6.50 pm I spoke to [REDACTED] at St Kilda Road police station. <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> was also present. I told [REDACTED] that the DPP's position on sentence if [REDACTED] was to plead guilty and fully co-operate with police was that he would get [REDACTED] years.
173. <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> was present because of his knowledge of [REDACTED] and because I was hopeful that [REDACTED] would accept our offer. If he did, it would have been necessary to have [REDACTED]
174. At 7.15 pm Ms Gobbo attended the St Kilda Road Police Station at [REDACTED]. I don't recall when I learnt that Ms Gobbo was coming to St Kilda Road Police Station to advise [REDACTED]. When she arrived, I spoke to her regarding [REDACTED] situation and the DPP's position should [REDACTED] co-operate. I said to Ms Gobbo that the police would offer to put [REDACTED] [REDACTED] if desired. I also said that the police were interested in full cooperation, which meant speaking to principals whilst [REDACTED]
175. Ms Gobbo spoke to [REDACTED]. I am not aware of what advice she gave him. I believed it would have been preferable for someone other than Ms Gobbo to



- c) Karma Lounge is in Khoury's name but is owned by Tony Mokbel.
- d) Khoder has a Ferrari with the number plate TFX 132.

182. On 16 May 2006 at 9.40am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary:

- a) Zarah Garde-Wilson was going to see Milad Mokbel tomorrow.
- b) Ms Gobbo believed the conversation would be about Emidio Navaroli and instructions regarding money.
- c) Ms Gobbo said that Milad and others know that [REDACTED] is in [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
- d) Horty Mokbel is trying to work out who [REDACTED] so that he can go and collect it.
- e) Marcello's threat to Steve Cvetanovski has been sorted out and has been told to stay away by Maserati Andrew. Described as an up and comer stand over.

183. On 18 May 2006, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary:

- a) Mark Lanteri is currently driving a black Mercedes SMA 122.
- b) <sup>Solicitor 2</sup> is going to issue a subpoena under false pretences to get access to Person 13's statements to see what he has said about the Mokbels.

184. On 22 May 2006 at 1.20pm, I had a conversation to <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary:

- a) The Mercedes driven by Mark Lanteri is subject to a restraining order.
- b) Tony Mokbel is said to be in the company of Jeffrey Jamou.
- c) Bedrnarski wants to meet with Ms Gobbo soon as he is currently associating with Eddie Raadi.





- a) [REDACTED]
- b) Horthy Mokbel was to meet with Rabi Karam that evening – possibly at the Waterfront. However, Karam was not keen to meet because he believed that Horthy was “red hot”.
- c) Horthy paid off his wife’s BMW on the weekend using cash.
- d) Eddie Raadi used to supply Tony Mokbel with MDMA powder.
- e) Raadi is living at [REDACTED] Street, [REDACTED]. Raadi is supplying MDMA and still has heaps.

189. On 8 June 2006 at 6.40pm, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary:

- a) Rabi Karam was meeting with Horthy Mokbel at a Japanese restaurant in North Melbourne around 1pm on 9 June 2006.
- b) Karl Khoder had a visit from Mark Lanteri, who wants his money back that he gave to Khoder for a property investment.
- c) A lot of the Williams’s money went through Dennis’s business accounts. Dennis runs an Urban Burger on Bay Street, Port Melbourne.

190. On 9 June 2006 at 9.30am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information provided related to discussion at a dinner the previous evening that was attended by persons including Mark Lanteri, Horthy Mokbel and Adriano, who was a NSW based cocaine dealer. I later found out that Adriano’s full name was Adriano Cendron. The majority of the discussion was about [REDACTED]

191. On 13 June 2006, at 1.30pm, I received a call from <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. Cvetanovski still has 140 litres of methylamine and phenylacetic acid.





204. On 22 August 2006 at 9.26am, I had a conversation with <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.
205. On 25 August 2006 at 9.30am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information was telephone numbers for Danny Haffner and Scott Farragher.
206. On 28 August 2006 at 10.14am, I had a conversation with <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. Oggy had spoken with Ms Gobbo over the weekend and had said that he was very busy and had a job to do.
207. On 30 August 2006 at 8.00am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information included that Rabi Karam was travelling to Sydney to meet with Shane Bugeja and Lance Johnson. They had the chemicals to manufacture methylamphetamine but were looking to get glassware. Ms Gobbo was to prompt intro to Oggy if possible. Both were concerned about the relationship that the police had with glassblowers.
208. On 30 August 2006 at 5.30pm, I had a discussion with <sup>Green-O</sup>. We discussed tasking Ms Gobbo with gathering information with regard to the disposable income of Tony Mokbel.
209. On 31 August 2006 at 5.10pm, I spoke to <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information related to a property at [REDACTED], Rosebud.
210. On 1 September 2006 at 9.21am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information provided included telephone numbers for a number of people. In addition, I was provided with information about Tony Mokbel's assets. I was also provided with information about cash buried at "Aunt Maree's".





received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. Ms Gobbo had met with [REDACTED] who had [REDACTED]. Roberta Williams had requested Mick Gatto to have Ms Gobbo murdered.

219. I didn't do anything with this information. Given that the information had come to me via the SDU and given that the SDU were in charge of her welfare, I assumed that they would mitigate any risk to Ms Gobbo as a result of this intelligence.
220. On 18 September 2006 at 10.30am, I met with <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [REDACTED] and he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.
221. On [REDACTED] 2006 at 8.35am, I received a call from [REDACTED] Prison. I spoke with a prison officer who connected me to [REDACTED] gave me information about precursor chemicals and a possible cook that was underway. [REDACTED] told me that the possible cooks were [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
222. On 21 September 2006 at 9.15am, I made a telephone call to <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [REDACTED] and requested that he task Ms Gobbo with providing what information she has about Sequenzia and Christopher Anderson. Christopher Anderson was a known amphetamine cook.
223. On 21 September 2006 at 11.36am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> [REDACTED] in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information related to the task I had requested earlier that morning:
- a) Paul Sequenzia was extremely friendly with Michael Barbaro and was paying his legal fees.
  - b) He was a big gambler, particularly on the horses.
  - c) He was very close to solicitor Dan Cauvoski.
  - d) He lived in Moonee Ponds.
  - e) Ms Gobbo also supplied his mobile phone number.

224. On 22 September 2006 at 8.20am, I had a conversation with <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I made a record of the conversation in my diary and noted that the update was to be disseminated to Detective Sergeant Kelly and S/D Hantsis. I don't recall what information I received from the SDU or gave to Detective Sergeant Kelly and Senior Detective Hantsis. Having reviewed my diary, I believe it probably related to the information I received on 21 September 2006.
225. On 4 October 2006 at 8.09am, search warrants were executed at the home and business addresses of Kamel Khoder. Kamel Khoder was a money launderer. We had intelligence that Kamel Khoder was handling the finance for the Mokbels. He had organised a lot of loans on their behalf. Kamel Khoder was charged with obtaining financial advantage by deception and a number of fraud related matters later that day.
226. As the search warrants were executed, I spoke to the media at Kamel Khoder's business address on Sydney Road. I said that, *"The action we are taking today is part of an investigation into a continuing criminal enterprise. It involves those laundering or concealing assets derived from crime. If you remove the assets of organised crime, you remove its ability to influence, operate or corrupt. Ultimately, we are about making Victoria a hostile environment for organised crime."*
227. The arrest of Kamel Khoder was based on intelligence gathered by Detective Sergeant Jim Coghlan and the Criminal Proceeds Team that sat within the Purana Task Force.
228. On 9 October 2006, Steve Gavanis (aka Oggy) and Mohammad Kohdr were arrested at [REDACTED] Pascoe Vale for drug offences. I attended after the arrest, as around \$70,000 had been found at the scene. These arrests were made as a part of Operation Dotard, which was being conducted by Detective Sergeant Jason Kelly and his team.
229. On 13 October 2006 at 2.25pm, I attended a meeting with Detective Sergeant Biggin, <sup>Sandy White-O</sup>, Detective Sergeant Anderson and <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> regarding information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I made a record of the meeting in my diary. Detective Sergeant





243. On 25 January 2007 at 3.00pm, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary:
- a) Ms Gobbo had received a threatening text message from a Telstra phone number.
  - b) Mohammed Atiyeh was currently in hiding with a contract out on him for \$60,000.
  - c) Ms Gobbo was meeting with Cvetanovski that evening.
244. On 27 January 2007 at 6.30pm, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. Raadi currently had 2 pounds of methyl amphetamine for sale for \$45,000 a pound with a \$5,000 commission for whoever could sell it.
245. On 29 January 2007 at 9.06am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Green-O</sup>  
<sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information provided included that Horty Mokbel was struggling to raise the \$200,000 surety to get Stephen Gavanas out on bail. This was a demonstration of how my approach of taking away the money was working because:
- a) by keeping Gavanas in gaol, he was not able to manufacture methyl amphetamine; and
  - b) the Mokbel crime syndicate was unable to use funds to buy and enforce loyalty.
246. On 30 January 2007 at 9.30am, I had a conversation with <sup>Green-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information related to a dinner at a Japanese restaurant in Clarendon Street, South Melbourne.
247. On 31 January 2007, I spoke with <sup>Green-O</sup> on two occasions in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information provided included





253. Nicola Gobbo was not involved in any of these meetings nor the statements that were obtained as a result of them.
254. On 1 March 2007 at 1.15pm, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. A person called "The Priest" operated as a debt collector and was threatening Kamel Khoder over a \$100,000 debt.
255. On 7 March 2007 at 12.50pm, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo. She wanted to discuss a plea deal with regard to Milad Mokbel and we arranged to meet the following morning. I attended her chambers at 8.45am on 8 March 2007 with Detective Sergeant Flynn. I said to Ms Gobbo that we would require full cooperation from Milad with regard to Condello and Lewis Moran murders and with regard to drug trafficking over a period of years. I advised Ms Gobbo that I had spoken to the OPP regarding imprisonment for failure to pay surety for Tony Mokbel.
256. On 9 March 2007 at 4.20pm, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo in which she said to me that Milad Mokbel wanted to speak with me.
257. On 9 March 2007 at 4.20pm, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the information in my diary. Alex Lewenberg was attempting to back date a document regarding the resignation of Renate Mokbel from JR Mokbel Pty Ltd in order to defeat a perjury charge.
258. On 13 March 2007, I attended Barwon Prison with Detective Sergeant Bateson. We met with Carl Williams. During this meeting, Carl Williams gave a "can say" statement, which I typed in his presence.
259. On 13 March 2007 at 9.52am, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the information in my diary. The information related to the false letter of resignation that Milad was to sign.

260. On 13 March 2007 at 2.56pm, I met Milad Mokbel at Barwon Prison with Detective Sergeant Peter Trichias. My diary records that what Milad Mokbel said was *"a complete fabrication and lies."* The conversation lasted for eight minutes.
261. On 14 March 2007 at 12.08pm, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded the information in my diary. The information related to Karl Khoder.
262. On 14 March 2007 at 6.10pm, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo. I said that there would be no deal regarding Milad Mokbel because he was fabricating lies in relation to [REDACTED] and others. We also discussed the pending arrest of Renata Mokbel and Zarah Garde-Wilson's activities. I don't recall this part of the discussion.
263. On 16 March 2007 at 9.10am, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The resignation documents and appointment of Renata Mokbel regarding the Mokbel property trust will be tendered today. Also Rabi Karam and Bill Karam have Mohammed Aityeh pressing methyl amphetamine tablets at a house near Broadmeadows.
264. On 17 March 2007 at 5.13pm, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.
265. On 7 April 2007, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information had come to Ms Gobbo via Rabi Karam and was that Fred D'Amico was going to be murdered over a 60kg cocaine importation into Australia that had gone wrong.
266. On 10 April 2007 at 2.50pm, I spoke to Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. Milad Mokbel will still broker a deal to plead guilty. Horthy, Karam and Joe Manella are meeting every Tuesday regarding an import container that was due to land shortly. Other information was also provided, which is recorded in my diary.

267. On 11 April 2007, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.:
- a) Andrew Youmani has left for Colombia.
  - b) It is believed that he is involved in drug trafficking.
  - c) Ms Gobbo was with Horty last night at a restaurant. At around 8.40pm, he received a phone call and left in a hurry.
268. I passed on the information referred to above to Detective Sergeant Kelly to research it.
269. On 12 April 2007, I had two telephone discussions with Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.
270. On 18 April 2007 at 4.20pm, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.
271. At around this time, I had a discussion with Deputy Commissioner Overland about Ms Gobbo and the possibility of calling her as a witness in an OPI inquiry. I have not been able to find a note of this conversation in my diary. During the discussion, Deputy Commissioner Overland said to me that he was considering having Ms Gobbo called as a witness. He asked me what I thought about that. I said to him that I was against it because I believed that doing so would be against our own policy. I also said to him that I was concerned about Ms Gobbo's safety if she was used as a witness.
272. On 19 April 2007 at 9.44am, I attended a presentation to receive my certificate of appointment as a Commissioned Officer. After the presentation, I spoke to Deputy Commissioner Overland. During this discussion, he told me that he had made his decision and that Ms Gobbo was going to be called as a witness in relation to an OPI inquiry.
273. On 22 April 2007 at 1.30pm, I had a discussion with  
Sandy White-O
Sandy White-O
to discuss the deactivation of Ms Gobbo. I don't recall this discussion.



281. All the information that I relied on for Operation Magnum is recorded in my police diary.
282. On 7 June 2007 at 2.21pm, I received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. Tony Mokbel says that his Greek lawyer will bog down extradition issues for 18 months at least. Danielle will return to Australia and fix all the money issues. Tony says he has plenty of money.
283. On 13, 15 and 20 June 2007, I spoke with Detective Sergeant Anderson in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The information principally related to Tony Mokbel's extradition and funds.
284. On 23 June 2007 at 9.27am, I received a telephone call from <sup>Fox-O</sup>  
<sup>Fox-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary. The previous evening, she had been summoned to a meeting at the Steak House with Mick Gatto, Steve Kaya, Ahmed Cossun and Sam (who was carrying a firearm and is Kaya's bodyguard). My diary records what was discussed at dinner.
285. On 29 June 2007 at 8.05am, I submitted my resignation from Victoria Police, effective as of 1 September 2007.
286. On 13, 16 and 23 July 2007, I spoke with <sup>Fox-O</sup> in which he reported to me information that the SDU had received from Ms Gobbo. I recorded that information in my diary.
287. On 1 September 2007, I retired from Victoria Police.

#### Use of Ms Gobbo as a human source

#### Question 3

288. The first time I became aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information to police was at 2.03pm on 31 of August 2005 when advised by Detective Sergeant Mansell and Detective Senior Constable Rowe. I refer to my answer to question 2, above.

289. I am not aware of any other organisation outside of Victoria Police being aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police apart from the Office of Police Integrity in 2007.

Question 4

290. I believe that the following persons at Victoria Police were aware, prior to the end of 2012, that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police:

- a) Assistant Commissioner Overland, who was informed of Ms Gobbo's role at around the time she became a registered human source. My first notation of this was on 12 September 2005 at 1.57 pm when I provided a Purana Task Force update to the Assistant Commissioner.
- b) In late 2005, Assistant Commissioner Overland requested that the Detective Superintendents also receive briefings in relation to Purana investigations. I provided briefings to various members of crime command as per my diary entries. With reference to my official diary entries, I believe that Detective Acting Superintendent Hill was aware that Ms Gobbo was providing information or assistance to Victoria Police from 19 September 2005 and Commander Purton from 26 September 2005.
- c) I believe that Acting Commander Grant was also aware that Ms Gobbo was providing assistance to Victoria Police, but I am not aware of when he became aware of this.
- d) The officers in in Covert Support/the SDU, including Detective Superintendent Biggin; Detective Senior Sergeant Cruze; Detective Inspector Glow; <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> ; <sup>Black-O</sup> ; <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> ; <sup>Green-O</sup> ; <sup>Wolf-O</sup> ; <sup>Wolf-O</sup> ; Detective Sergeant Anderson; <sup>Fox-O</sup> .
- a. With reference to my official diary entries, I believe that Detective Acting Inspector Ryan was aware from 31 August 2005.
- e) Detective Sergeant Mansell and Detective Senior Constable Rowe were aware from 31 August 2005.



- f) I believe that Detective Senior Sergeant Smith, Detective Sergeants Mansell, Flynn, Kelly, Coghlan, Johnson; Bateson, Buick and Hatt; Senior Detectives Burrows, Anderson, <sup>Graham Evans</sup> knew of Ms Gobbo being a registered human source. I am unsure from when. The practice was that human sources were only referred to by number around the office and in all documentation. But overtime I assumed that the crew Sergeants (some sooner than others) were aware of the identity of the source of the information.

#### Question 5

291. I do not have specific knowledge of the approval processes but believe that the following persons may have been involved in the authorisation and continued authorisation of the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source:

- a) Assistant Commissioner Overland;
- b) Commander Purton;
- c) Acting Detective Superintendent Robert Hill;
- d) Detective Superintendent Tony Biggin, Covert Services; and

e) <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> , <sup>Peter Smith-O</sup> , <sup>Green-O</sup> ,  
<sup>Black-O</sup> , <sup>Wolf-O</sup> , <sup>Fox-O</sup> as members of the SDU and/or human source management unit.

292. I have been shown a document titled "Request for Assistance Source Development Unit" that lists me as the current controller of human source 21803838 that is dated 7 September 2005.<sup>5</sup> I do not recall seeing this document at the time. I do not know why I am listed as the current controller. To the best of my knowledge, Ms Gobbo was registered as a human source by the SDU, not by the M.D.I.D. I was not involved in the authorisation or continued authorisation of Ms Gobbo as a human source.

#### Question 6

293. I had a number of personal interactions with Ms Gobbo. I recorded these interactions in my diary. Where I spoke with Ms Gobbo, I referred to her by name.

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<sup>5</sup> VPL.2000.0002.0712

I did so to distinguish between information received from her via the SDU, and information that she was providing to me in her capacity as a lawyer. Also, distinguishing diary entries in this way would create confusion for anyone who was reading my diary as to the identity of the source.

294. On 1 October 2002, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo in relation to the service of a subpoena on the Chief Commissioner of Police regarding Shane Pidoto and the Ceja Task Force in relation to surveillance logs. I made a record of this call in my diary. Ms Gobbo did not call me directly. She called a telephone in the Drug Squad and I just happened to be there and took the call.
295. On 5 January 2006, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo. I have set out the details of this call in my answer to question 2 above.
296. On [REDACTED] 2006, Ms Gobbo attended the St Kilda Road Police Station following the arrest of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I have set out the details of this interaction in my answer to question 2 above.
297. On 6 August 2006, I spoke to Ms Gobbo at Barwon Prison. According to my diary, we spoke for around three minutes. I made no record of what we discussed and I do not now recall the discussion.
298. On 7 December 2006, I attended Ms Gobbo's chambers and spoke with her about a summons from another law enforcement agency.
299. On 8 March 2007, I attended Ms Gobbo's chambers with Detective Sergeant Flynn to discuss Milad Mokbel's plea offer.
300. On 9 March 2007, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo who advised that Milad Mokbel wanted to speak with me.
301. On 14 March 2007, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo during which I advised her that there would be no plea deal with Milad Mokbel.
302. On 2 May 2007 at 7.25pm, I attended a dinner with <sup>Green-O</sup> [REDACTED], Detective Sergeant Anderson, <sup>Sandy White-O</sup> [REDACTED] and Ms Gobbo at Sebel Heritage Golf Course. I refer to my answer to question 2, above.
303. On 30 July 2007, I received a telephone call from Ms Gobbo in which she wished me well for my retirement.

Question 7

304. I refer to my answer to question 2, above. I made a note of all information that the SDU received from Ms Gobbo in my diary, including the person from whom I received it and when the information was received. I am aware that the information was received by the officers within the SDU, however, I am unaware of how that information was received.
305. Most of the information provided by Ms Gobbo may have been of a corroborative nature of other investigative information. In many cases, I noted the information in my diary but no further use was made of it.
306. In some instances, I have specifically referred to the use of information provided by Ms Gobbo in my answer to question 2, above. In other instances, the use of the information will be recorded in my diary. For example, current phone numbers would have been passed on to the relevant investigative crew.
307. While I received a vast amount of information from Ms Gobbo via the SDU, the only information provided by her that I consider was significant was the information provided by her on [REDACTED] 2006 in relation to the lab being set up in [REDACTED]. I do not know whether we would have located this lab without this information.
308. I do not consider that information provided by Ms Gobbo was significant in the other investigations or arrests that I refer to in my answer to question 2, above.

Question 8

309. I have no further information to add in response to question 8.

**Concerns in relation to use of Ms Gobbo as a human source**Question 9

310. I am not aware of any concerns being raised by members of Victoria Police or any other organisation as to the use of a legal practitioner as a human source.

Question 10

311. I am not aware of any concerns being raised as to the use of Ms Gobbo as a human source, save than concerns in relation to her safety.





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