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VP Form 287A

# STATEMENT

Mr Bickley

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

**STATES:**

I am 34 years old and live at an address known to police.

I make this statement under the belief that any information contained herein will not be used against me in any criminal proceedings. I am making it of my own free will and under no duress.

In 2002, I assumed directorship of a company called Chemical Image, which was situated at [REDACTED] Coburg. Chemical Image manufactured general cleaning products using raw materials/chemicals to make detergents, disinfectants and other cleaning agents. I would on sell the finished products to a company known as Central Cleaning Supplies. Chemical Image consisted of myself as Director, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PII

[REDACTED]

PII [REDACTED]

A couple of years ago a male whom I now know as Tony MOKBEL walked in off the street. I had never seen him before and at the time did not know who he was. He stated that he was a brick layer and wanted to clean some bricks. He asked if we had anything to clean them with, any sort of acid. I told him that we stocked acid and he asked

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specifically for Sulphuric Acid. I told him that we stocked it. He then asked me if it was pure and I told him it was 98% as you can't have pure Sulphuric because it needs to have a water content. He said he wanted a fair bit so he would take it concentrated and water it down himself. On this occasion he purchased 50 litres and asked that it be packed in 5 litre containers. Once we agreed on how it was to be packed he told me he'd fix it up tomorrow and then he left leaving all of the acid with me at the factory.

Tony returned the following day in the afternoon I think, and I had the Sulphuric Acid all packed and ready for him. We agreed on a price of around \$25 a container, with that Tony handed me about \$2 500 in cash out of a bum bag he was carrying. I said to him that he had given me too much money and he said that don't worry about it keep it, it's yours. Tony then told me that he would take the rest of the acid as well. When Tony asked for the rest of the acid it totalled 150 litres and I told him that I couldn't do it in 5 litre containers by this afternoon and he told me just to put it into 25 litre containers. Tony then made a phone call and left the factory on foot. As he was walking off two men arrived in a car. I know these two males as Eddie and G. Tony introduced me to Eddie and said that he was a guy that worked for him. He said that Eddie would load the acid into his car and would collect the rest later on. Eddie and G then quickly loaded up the car and left with the acid.

About three hours after Eddie and G left they returned in a Tarago Van and collected the rest of the Sulphuric acid. The \$2 500 cash paid by Tony was about \$2 000 over what the cost of the Sulphuric acid was.

Eddie is a large bloke, heavily built, over weight. He has little to no hair and is of middle-eastern appearance. On some occasions he would have a goatee and sometimes not. I would say he would be about 5'10 or 11 and has problems with his skin especially on the cheeks and back of the neck. I would say he would be about 40 years of age. He often would wear overalls, work mans clothes and would sometimes wear a safety vest. He always had a cap or beanie on and would often speak in broken English. He speaks with an accent. He always referred to me as brother.

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'G' is about 6'1" with heavy facial hair. He has a distinct accent and is of middle eastern appearance. He has a medium build and curly to wavy hair depending on how short it is. He has a pronounced nose and would be in his early 30's. I think he has brown eyes from memory.

A couple of weeks later Tony came back and again wanted to purchase sulphuric acid. It was basically the same arrangement except he wanted more. I told him that I had a 200 litre drum that he could have. He agreed and asked me if I could package it in 25 litre containers. I told him I could and [REDACTED] PII. He again paid about \$2 500 in cash which included extra. When Tony gave me the money he said I know it's more just keep it. Tony also on this occasion took a mixture of general cleaning products. Tony asked what other acids we stocked and I told him Hydrochloric, Nitric, Glacial acetic and Phosphoric. He also asked what type of solvents I kept, I told him Xylene, Methanol, Methylated Spirits and Acetone. Tony purchased Methylated Spirits, Acetone, 25 litres of Nitric acid and 25 litres of Glacial acetic. Tony then asked me if I had any more Acetone in stock I told him that I did and could order more if he needed it. Tony ended up purchasing about 50 litres of Acetone and I told him at the time that would last him for ever. I then told him that a cleaning contractor would take 6 months to use that amount of Acetone. He told me that he had some machinery he needed to clean. I told Tony that he could have the rest of that stuff at no cost as he had given me so much money. He did not take the product with him and he walked off. This time I saw an old red coloured Honda civic drive past and pick him up. As Tony was collected Eddie and G arrived in a silver Toyota Cressida and collected all of the stuff Tony had purchased.

This continued to happen on a number of occasions over a six month period. The only thing that changed was the type of chemicals and the quantities. On some occasions he would buy acetone, sometimes caustic soda and he continued to buy sulphuric acid. He would buy large quantities of all these chemicals. Over the 6 month period I would estimate that he would have purchased over 1000 litres of sulphuric acid, 6000 litres of acetone and 1000 kilograms or 1 pallet of caustic soda. All these products were used by us in our day to day business activities. We would in the running of the business stock these sort of quantities of chemicals, so it wasn't unusually to stock those amounts. We would order these chemicals through our regular suppliers, who where, Redox



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Chemicals, Oilchem and APS Chemicals. Redox Chemicals are based in Laverton, Oilchem is based in Epping and APS Chemicals are in Cheltenham. We would always order the chemicals through the Chemical Image company accounts.

On one occasion, after he had been in several times, he asked me if I knew who he was. I told him that I didn't and he stated his name was Antonious MOKBEL. At this time this name didn't mean anything to me. The way he asked me suggested I should have known who he was so I later did a Google search on his name. This is when I became aware of who he was and that he had previously been involved in drug trafficking. The Google search brought up a number of newspaper articles about him and what he was involved in.

On another occasion during this time I met with Tony in the Brunswick area in a street that ran between Moreland Road and Victoria Street. At this time I delivered to him 4 25 kilogram bags of caustic soda. He personally removed the bags from the boot of my car and placed them into his, which was a red Honda Civic about a 94 model. Shortly after which we were approached by two police members in an unmarked police car. These police were not wearing uniform and were dressed in suits. They asked us if we had witnessed anything unusual in the area as they were investigating a burglary. We told them that we hadn't and that we were just in the area looking at property. We were then asked our names. Tony gave his correct name and I gave the name of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I had panicked and couldn't think of another name to give. After some general chit chat the police left. I don't remember what car I was in on this day.

At around this time Tony he started asking about different chemicals which we did not normally stock. He asked about P-Toluic Acid, P2P, Benzyl-methyl ketone (BMK), Pipronyl-methyl ketone (PMK) and phenyl-acetic acid. When he initially asked I had never heard of these chemicals. As part of my business all I did was read of an ingredients sheet and order the relevant chemicals. I do not have any formal chemical training.

As a result of him asking for these chemicals I researched them on the internet. I then became aware of what they could be used for and that they were restricted substances. I

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told him that I could not get those types of chemicals because as far as I could tell they were illegal. To order chemicals of this nature you need a valid reason and I didn't have one so I told him I could not get them. He told me he would get it somewhere else and instead asked me if I could get him machinery. He asked if I could get him 'chillers'.

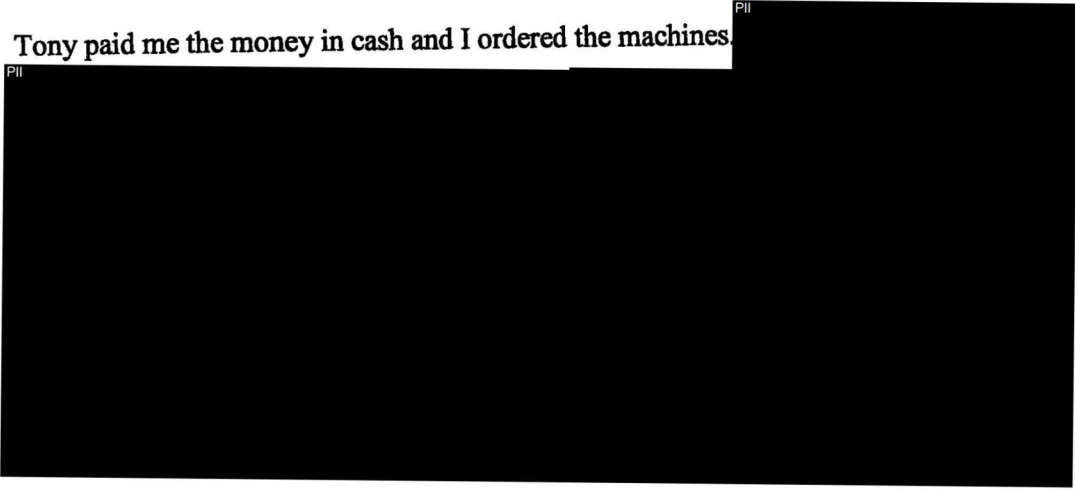
Chillers are a long coil that can be dipped into a substance or chemicals to cool them quickly. He gave me a sheet which listed all the information about the specific chillers he wanted. It stated the model number, where to buy them and how much they would cost. The model was 'VLT' or similar and the brand was 'Poly Science'. He wanted two chillers and they cost about \$13,500 each. I can't remember the price exactly. I told him that to order these I would have to do it under my company name and that I wasn't comfortable doing that, because Tony's intention was to assume ownership upon delivery. I found it difficult to justify something I was buying under the business name that wasn't going to be used by the business. At this time he asked me how my [REDACTED] PII [REDACTED] were going. I did not know how to take this. I had not mentioned anything to him about [REDACTED] PII [REDACTED] or any of my family. I wasn't sure if he meant this as a threat or what. I didn't know what to think, I was taken aback by the comment.

I decided I should order the chillers for him because his demeanour had changed. When we first met he was very friendly however when he wanted these items he was much more assertive and forthright. When I agreed to order them he gave me a mobile phone on which I could contact him. He told me that I wasn't to use it other than to contact him, I wasn't to send any SMS' and I wasn't to leave it unattended. When I received the phone it had only one number in it. This number was a direct contact to Tony. Then from this day on about every two weeks I would be given a new phone. After the initial phone the other phones I would be given would have one number in them and this would be a direct contact to Eddie only. I can't remember what type of phone he gave me or what the numbers were. He would normally give me either a Nokia or LG phone. The first time he gave me his phone number I put it into my personal mobile phone under 'TM'. This phone was seized by police in 2005 and should still have this number in it.

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Tony paid me the money in cash and I ordered the machines.



About 8 – 10 weeks later when the Chillers arrived I rang Tony and told him that they were ready to be collected. He told me that he would organise to pick them up.

Later that afternoon 'Eddie' and his cousin 'G' arrived to pick them up. At this time I asked 'Eddie' what they were used for. He said to me don't you know what they are used for. I said no and he said they were used for 'cooling down, when you make the speed'. The two of them loaded them into a car they had, I think it was a Tarago and they left.

At this time Tony stopped coming to the factory. From this time on we would always meet in the Victoria Street, Brunswick area. He would either ring me on the mobile phone he had given me or he would send Eddie to collect me from the factory. Tony always seemed to be floating around in the Brunswick area and was always in a different car. Eddie was also always in a rental car which I think he generally got from 'Eurocar' which I think at the time was 'Hertz'. I would notice the signage inside the cars. He always had larger type cars so he could load stuff into it. I remember at one time he had a Ford Territory which was green. I remember he was in this car a lot. He had a friend who worked at the car rental place who would organise the cars for him. Eddie asked me if I had any contacts with car rentals place and I told him to go to advance car rentals on the corner of Queens and Queensberry Street North Melbourne. I'm not if he ever rented cars from there.

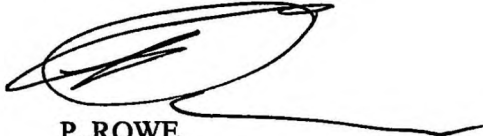


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Mr Bickley

Statement taken and signature witnessed by me  
at 10:59 AM on 20/07/2006 at Melbourne




P. ROWE  
Det.Sen.Constable 31741

I hereby acknowledge that this statement is true and correct and I make it in the belief  
that a person making a false statement in the circumstances is liable to the penalties of  
perjury.

Mr Bickley

Acknowledgment made and signature witnessed by me  
at 10:59 AM on 20/07/2006 at Melbourne



P. ROWE  
Det.Sen.Constable 31741