

Revised 07/07

VP Form 287A

STATEMENT

Name:

Mr Cooper

STATES:

My full name is

Mr Cooper

I am [redacted] years of age.

I make this statement in 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.

I have known Steve CVETANOVSKI, who I also know as Zlatko CVETANOVSKI since about late 2004. I meet Steve through Ibrahim KURNAZ at the Crown Casino. Steve was introduced to me as a building developer. Steve had run out of money that night playing Baccarat and I offered to loan him some money so he could continue playing. I lent him \$5 000.00, and he was very pleased with this. Steve lost this money and paid me back the next day. This impressed me to see that he was a man of his word. Our friendship was forged from that point.

Initially most of our dealings were over gambling, by this I mean we would sit at the table and gamble together. We had some substantial wins together at Crown Casino and we spoke about investing money in property development. I informed Steve of my situation, being on bail for methamphetamine manufacturing. He was sympathetic to my situation; slowly as our relationship grew I divulged to him that I was still involved in the manufacture procedures. I also made him aware of my involvement with the MOKBEL family and as time went on he also befriended members of the MOKBEL family. When I told Steve of my involvement with the MOKBEL family he was aware of who they were through media reports and as well as the information that I had given him.

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On occasions Steve and I would lose money at the casino and we would frequent The Grove Coffee Shop, Sydney Road, Brunswick. We would go there in search of Horty MOKBEL to obtain cash, which Horty would have owed me from previous drug deals. This is where Steve and Horty got to know each other on a friendly basis and later exchanged mobile phone numbers. It came to my attention later on that Steve would frequent The Grove and loan money from Horty without my knowledge. This money would have been lent to Steve on a repaying of the sum basis.

Around mid 2005 [REDACTED] had come to a head over an accident that happened in the garage of [REDACTED] Reservoir. Were [REDACTED] [REDACTED] injured his eye in the event of making a precursor chemical for MDMA. This caused me to end [REDACTED] Having spoken to Steve about this he offered the use of his house at [REDACTED] Avondale Heights, as a rental property. I moved in to the house by myself shortly after, the house was fully furnished. I paid the rent to Steve through our gambling ventures, in gambling chips at the gambling table. My intention was to eventually buy the house from Steve with the money earned from the gambling and drug dealing. However this never eventuated as discrepancies over money owed in future gambling ventures were always in question, between Steve and I.

In mid to late 2005, I was barred from Crown Casino and this caused my gambling relationship with Steve to be limited to trips interstate only. This had a negative effect on Steve as he would lose vast amounts of money at Crown Casino on his own. His debts now with his property developing ventures were becoming unbearable; I knew this because Steve told me. He now resorted to pushing the idea of getting involved in the manufacture of amphetamines with me. I was reluctant to have him involved as this put everything I was trying to achieve, by laundering money through Steve at risk of being lost should I get busted again by the police. However Steve was persistent and I accepted his involvement in the manufacture process, limiting him to a small involvement at first. This would be in the form of him buying off the shelf chemicals such as Caustic Soda, Acetone, Hydrochloric acid and various plumbing supplies from places such as Bunnings. Steve's appetite for knowledge about the manufacturing process grew more and more and he was now sourcing information on the Internet and questioning me about processes every chance he [REDACTED]

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I was continuously manufacturing amphetamine at [REDACTED] Preston, using Ketone supplied by Milad and Horty MOKBEL during this period. Having Ketone requires only that the secondary process be conducted in the manufacture of amphetamine. This was something I was reluctant to show anybody how to do, as I had bad experiences with Tony MOKBEL in showing this process at the Gisborne lab.

In about mid March 2006 I meet [REDACTED] and began purchasing Phenyl-Acetic Acid, Acetic Anhydride and Sodium Acetate. These are all pre-cursor chemicals for making Phenyl-2-Propanone (P2P) (Ketone). On one occasion when [REDACTED] would frequent my house in order to pick up money for the chemicals, he met Steve. I introduced Steve as my business partner. I also told [REDACTED] that should anything go wrong, by this I mean should I be caught by police, for him to see Steve. I would mean by this that if [REDACTED] needed to be paid for outstanding moneys he should see Steve. I remember on one occasion [REDACTED] arrived at my house with [REDACTED] Acetic Anhydride that I needed and he told me that I had to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I then had to [REDACTED] in order to pay for the [REDACTED] chemicals. Steve assisted me with this request. Also on occasions chemicals I received from Horty and [REDACTED] would be stored at Steve's mothers' house, [REDACTED] Avondale Heights. Steve was of the knowledge that the chemicals were being stored there. In time these chemicals were destined for the Strathmore lab but they never arrived as I was arrested by police prior to them being needed.

Now with the availability of these chemicals the manufacture of amphetamines was more lucrative than ever before. Owning the Ketone meant the profits would not have to be split with any other party; however the intensity of now doing the first and second procedures in the manufacture of amphetamines was a much larger task. I then decided to employ Steve and Frank AHEC to assist me in the 16 hour cook needed to make the Ketone at [REDACTED] Preston. I remember on two occasions that Steve entered the lab and helped me set up and start the cooking process for the Ketone. I remember on one occasion I was needed to drop off some finished product, amphetamine, to a client. I left Steve in charge of monitoring the temperatures of the Ketone cook. This would require him to adjust the gas burner as the liquid level dropped in the reaction vessel to

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keep the temperature at a constant. I remember I had left the Preston lab for a period of 10 hours. On my return I asked Steve how things were. He told me that all was fine and he was sitting with [REDACTED] watching TV. On other occasions during the secondary process I would call Steve on a bubba phone; a bubba phone is a phone that is registered in a fictitious name. I would call Steve to bring me food to eat or at times bring items that I had run out of, such as Acetone and Aluminium. I remember this happened on three occasions. On one other occasion Steve and I sat through an entire 16 hour cook together were we started and completed a Ketone cook which ultimately took about 26 hours. Steve benefited from this cook in ways of a percentage of the finished product, amphetamine. Which I then on sold for Steve through the MOKBELS and the money was then given to Steve as payment. On this occasion Steve's share was approximately 2 pounds of finished product to which he received \$80 000.00 cash. All up I would estimate Steve made about \$200 000, for his involvement with me in the manufacturing processes.

In March 2006 my relationship with [REDACTED] was wearing thin as the time spent at the lab had now doubled because of the first and second manufacturing procedures. Also the smells from the Ketone cooks had become irritating. I then spoke with Steve about finding a new premise for the manufacturing processes. Steve and I had a look at a few factories in the Keilor area which we thought were suitable but were reluctant to take possession as the leases were all to long.

In March of 2006 I had just purchased a large amount of Phenyl Acetic Acid from [REDACTED] I then picked up Steve from his house, [REDACTED] Avondale Heights. I was taking the Phenyl-Acetic Acid to the Preston Lab and then afterwards Steve and I intended to look for a suitable location for the new lab. On arrival at Preston, Steve noticed some late model vehicles circling the block of [REDACTED] Preston. It was evident that police were trying to locate the lab, in unmarked vehicles. This became totally obvious to Steve and I as we sat in the Hungry Jack restaurant and watched police drive around and around. This scared me and caused me to make the decision to move out of Preston A.S.A.P. Within two days of sighting the police I had packed up the entire lab into a trailer and moved the trailer to the rear of a Williamstown address, owned by [REDACTED]

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Shortly after this, through Steve, I meet the leasee of a property, a shop in [REDACTED] Strathmore. An agreement was struck between me and [REDACTED], the leasee. We spoke about some works being done at the shop in order to turn it into a juice bar. The works would entail tiling the floor, renovating the back of the shop, painting and preparing. I told him that I needed the shop for a period of a few months as a place to store my belongings while I was renovating this location. The works at this shop would have cost around \$15 000.00 to complete. No money was ever paid to [REDACTED] for the use of the shop as far as the manufacturing. To my knowledge [REDACTED] knew nothing of what I was doing at the shop.

In the first week of obtaining the shop, construction to enclose the back of the shop, installation of cameras, plumbing and extraction equipment were all put in place with the help of Frank, Michael BARBARO, Steve and myself, everyone had the knowledge of what it was being done for.

After the sighting of police at [REDACTED] Preston, I made it clear to Steve that he should distance himself from the cooking processes. My concern for Steve was the fact that should he be caught in the lab with me that all his assets as well as mine would end up being seized by police. He reluctantly agreed as he wanted to learn more about how to manufacture. However he did as I asked and never stepped foot in the lab during the cooking stages at Strathmore.

After my arrest [REDACTED] Steve and questioned him about an outstanding fee of [REDACTED] which I owed to [REDACTED]. I know this because Steve visited me in prison and told me that [REDACTED] and had become very irritated over this matter. So much so that Steve went to Horthy in an attempt to defuse this tension. This to my knowledge was the first meeting between [REDACTED]. This money was never paid to [REDACTED].

Also during these visits from Steve, he would ask me questions relating to the manufacture of amphetamines. He was very curious about the second stages of manufacture and would continuously ask me about pre-cursor chemicals and what stages chemicals should be added and what amounts should be added. To my

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knowledge Steve had teamed up with someone else and where possible going to have a go to make amphetamines without me being present. I was reluctant to explain this process as my fears for him being caught were high. I could see Steve was indifferent about my position and was on a fact finding mission in visiting me. I soon terminated his visiting rights.

Mr Cooper


Statement taken and signature witnessed by me
at 10:25am on 31/1/2008 at Melbourne


Craig Anthony HAYES
Det.Sen.Constable 31082

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 Cooper

Acknowledgment made and signature witnessed by me
at 10:26am on 31/1/2008 at Melbourne


Craig Anthony HAYES
Det.Sen.Constable 31082

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