

Mr Cooper

States:-

1. My full name is ^{Mr Cooper} [REDACTED]. I am [REDACTED] years of age
2. I make this statement in the belief that the information I provide to the police cannot be used against me in any future court proceedings.
3. I am Australian born and of [REDACTED] decent. I have ^{Family Member} [REDACTED] and ^{Family Member} [REDACTED]. I grew up at the family home of [REDACTED] Coburg which is now owed by ^{Family Member} [REDACTED]. I lived at this address until I was 19 or 20.
4. I first met the Mokbel family in 1980. I was 14 at the time and [REDACTED] told me we had to go to a house and pay our respects for someone who had died. We went to the family home at [REDACTED], Brunswick where I first met the four brothers, Kabalan, Horty, Tony and Milad. I also met their sister Gawie. Their father had just died and [REDACTED] knew the family from church and wished to pay her respects to the boys, Gawie and their mother.
5. Sometime later that year I got my first job ever at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Carlton as a kitchen hand. Horty had a job there as a 'barista', a barman who made coffee's etc.
6. The relationship between me and Horty grew through socialising at the restaurant. Not long after this on [REDACTED] past away. My relationship with Horty then became more intense and got to the point that I was spending most of my time at their family home. Their mother became attached to me as she felt sorry for a boy who had just lost ^{P/I} [REDACTED]

7. After [REDACTED] who was about [REDACTED] years at the time, lost control of the family and we all went our separate ways. I found more solace and stability with the Mokbel family than I did my own.
8. Between the ages of 14 and 18 years I did live at home [REDACTED] [REDACTED] year older than me and was [REDACTED] studying [REDACTED]. I started to take an interest in his chemistry books and chemistry in general. At this same time I started using drugs. This was a result of socialising with others at school and the football club, Coburg Colts, I was playing with. I did not use drugs when working at [REDACTED].’ By the time I was 16 years old I was using heroin. Because of these two factors, my drug use and interest in chemistry, I started mucking around with trying to make ‘Home bake heroin.’ [REDACTED] had no idea of this at this time.
9. At sometime later, I would estimate around 1985, [REDACTED] caught me injecting heroin with another person. We later discussed this and I confessed to [REDACTED] that I was a drug user. Initially he tried to help me out and get me out of using drugs but this was unsuccessful.
10. Shortly after this I started talking to [REDACTED] about studying and learning how to manufacture amphetamine. It was not until I started mucking around with chemicals myself that I was able to talk [REDACTED] into assisting me. I think he thought I would harm myself if he didn’t try and help.
11. [REDACTED] told me that he studied at the library and discovered a German manual which informed him of a process where pseudoephedrine was altered by synthesis to methylamphetamine. [REDACTED] came and told me that the method used the chemicals pseudoephedrine, hydriodic acid and red phosphorous. I then went and got these chemicals and glassware from a friend of mine Alex the Greek at Melbourne University.

12. I gave these chemicals to [PII] and he and his mates started experimenting with manufacturing methylamphetamine. I had a friend at the time, an old guy named Barry Taylor who had a friend that worked at [PII] in Sydney. Barry got me all the glassware I needed which I ordered from him over the telephone. This was sent by courier to Melbourne. [PII] and his friends cut me out of the manufacturing process because I was using heroin.
13. I continued to work at [PII] until I was about 19 years old and then I moved to the [PII]. I cut my hours down there to weekend work only and started work as a [PII]. At around this time I had also met [PII] and we moved [PII] a house in [PII] Brunswick. This is at the end of [PII]. I lived in this house which was rented from 1986 through to 1988.
14. It was during this time that I had mentioned to Tony Mokbel that me and [PII] [PII] knew how to manufacture speed. By speed I mean the drug methylamphetamine. Tony was interested in this and asked me to tell him what I knew about the process. I told him and he then showed me literature he had on 'ketone.' This method involves using the precursor chemical Phenyl Acetic Acid. I had a series of discussions with Tony about how to manufacture amphetamine using ketone. Tony also introduced me to another male Paul Howden and the three of us discussed the process and the problems involved with it. At times I would discuss chemical problems with [PII] but these were discussions between just [PII] and I. [PII] did not meet Paul or Tony.
15. With my discussions with Tony and Paul I did on occasion experiment on a small scale with manufacturing amphetamine. This occurred at [PII]. Using the Phenyl Acetic Acid method I successfully made about 16 grams of amphetamine on one occasion. This I either used or gave away. I did not go to any laboratory Paul and Tony were using to make amphetamine but I presumed they were making the drug because I started to see a difference in the amount of

money they had. As an example they both started driving better cars. They would also come to me occasionally to discuss problems with the manufacturing process.

16. In 1988 [REDACTED] We moved from Brunswick to an apartment we rented in [REDACTED], East St Kilda. I stopped working at [REDACTED] and started working as a cook at [REDACTED] in Brighton. As a result of moving out of Brunswick and away from the [REDACTED] I had very little further contact with the Mokbel family.
17. In 1990, I convinced [REDACTED]^{PII} that I had my drug habit under control. I convinced him to make some drugs. We turned (manufactured) a tub (25 kilograms) of pseudoephedrine into methamphetamine. We did this in a house in St Kilda in which we rented. I can't remember the street name but it was off Nepean Highway. [REDACTED]^{PII} got all the glassware he had been using to manufacture speed with his mates and moved it into this house.
18. Over a ten day period [REDACTED]^{PII} and I turned the 25 kilograms into about 19 elbows (pounds) of amphetamine. The majority of this amphetamine [REDACTED]^{PII} sold to Noel Laurie over a period of about a year. I would deliver Laurie pound lots every three weeks or whenever he called. He paid \$29,000.00 per pound. I also met a few bikies and started to get into the bikie scene. I did sell ounce lots of amphetamine to a number of bikies. We received a total of \$550,000.00 from this manufacturing process from which I received \$100,000.00. [REDACTED]^{PII} received the rest.
19. After this cook [REDACTED]^{PII} decided to pack it up and call it a day. That was the first and last cook I did with [REDACTED]^{PII} for a long time.
20. In 1990 I had purchased my first home at [REDACTED] North Coburg for \$145,000.00. I had a mortgage of \$79,000.00. I had received some money from [REDACTED]^{PII} after he bought [REDACTED]^{PII} house out and paid the rest of the family out. At around

this time I also purchased my first Harley Davidson motorcycle for \$6,000.00. I continued to get into the bikie scene.

21. In 1992 [REDACTED] which forced me to get off using drugs. Later that year we moved to Italy. I got a job offer over there [REDACTED]. I sold the house in [REDACTED] for \$145,500.00. In 1997 I lost everything we owed because of a bad business venture relating to property. Over three or four years I earned about \$250,000.00 by working with [REDACTED] on a [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I invested all of these funds into another building development, a 12 luxury apartment complex in Anzio, a province of Rome, Italy, which failed and was foreclosed by the Bank of Rome. This left me broke and [REDACTED] loaned me money so I could return [REDACTED] to Melbourne.
22. We returned to Melbourne in 1997. I got a job as a [REDACTED]. I continued with this type of work for several years. For about two years I worked with ' [REDACTED], Carlton and then went out on my own. Later I worked for [REDACTED] Thornbury [REDACTED]. Mr employer was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from [REDACTED], Brunswick who is the president of the church. I remained in contact with [REDACTED] who had recently sold his business [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Elsternwick.
23. In 2000 [REDACTED] I purchased a house at [REDACTED] Reservoir. [REDACTED] had \$120,000 mortgage for a house that was worth \$215,000.00.
24. In February 2001 I met up with Tony Mokbel at Brunswick Market. I was of the opinion that Tony owned the market at this point. Over the following four weeks I had a number of meetings with Tony Mokbel. These were usually in the top car parking area of the Brunswick Market. I had observed that Tony had made large amounts of money since I had last seen him and I presumed this was because he was manufacturing and selling speed. I was struggling with my finances at the

time and interested in making some money. I discussed with Tony if he had had any [REDACTED] work for me. Tony told me to fuck [REDACTED] why don't I go back to doing what I do best. By this I knew he meant manufacturing amphetamine. We then discussed some different methods using pseudoephedrine. This included the 'cold reduction' method which Tony had heard of. We discussed how this method would reduce the manufacturing time.

25. Tony Mokbel was pleased and excited to discuss manufacturing amphetamine with me. Tony offered to set me up with the equipment and chemicals required to manufacture. He mentioned that he had a container containing pseudoephedrine coming in to Melbourne in August from Monte Negro, Yugoslavia. The pseudoephedrine was hidden in tiles and ceramics such as toilet bowls.
26. Tony said that until that pseudoephedrine came in all he had available was phenyl acetic acid. I was reluctant to do this method but didn't want to miss the opportunity to do the pseudo method. I had never used this phenyl acetic acid (ketone) method to manufacture on a large scale. I agreed to do a phenyl acetic acid cook for Tony. We discussed profits and agreed to a 60/40 split. Tony would get 60% of the profits for his part in supplying all the chemicals and equipment. I would receive the remaining 40%. All of the drugs would go to Tony for distribution but I would receive 40% of the money from sales. I would obviously know how much drugs I handed over and we worked on the value of a pound of speed was worth \$32,000.00. I was unsure on what type of yield I would have at this stage.
27. Over the following few months Tony started obtaining glassware for me. I was working at a [REDACTED] Preston. This was a private job I did for Carlo and Rick Ludarnie who is a motor trimmer who has a business in [REDACTED] Reservoir. Tony would drive to the site in a silver Mercedes. I would give him the keys to my car, a Ford XF Falcon Panel Van, and he would leave his car at [REDACTED] and drive my car to collect the glassware. He