

Mr Cooper

States:-

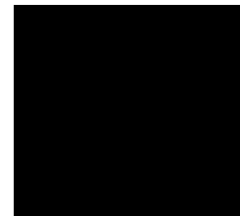
1. My full name is ^{Mr Cooper} I am [REDACTED] years of age.
2. I make this statement in the belief that the information I provide to the police cannot be used against me in any future court proceedings.
3. My involvement with Savas Pastras stems back to early 2005. I met him through his brother Michael Pastas who at the time was a good friend of Horty Mokbel. Michael on occasions would discuss the purchase of small amounts of amphetamine with me. I told him that I was not in the business of dealing on those levels and it was best for him to talk to Horty or Tony. When I say small amounts I mean ounces.
4. Michaels's persistence in wanting to deal direct with me was because the quality of the product he received from the Mokbels was largely inferior to what the quality amphetamine is normally. That is because the Mokbels tend to cut the product considerably to earn more money. He brought up a conversation about his brother Savas being a well connected person with the ability to purchase chemicals from a chemical supplier in Sydney. I know Tony and Horty had used Savas as a source of chemicals in the past but had bad dealings because of chemicals being seized by police and monies were still owing. This conversation I had with Michael took place in August 2005 at a Japanese Restaurant in North Melbourne. This restaurant is in a street behind the Old Melbourne Hotel in Flemington Road. I was at this meeting with Horty Mokbel, Michael Pastras, Adriano (I don't know his last name), Joe Parisi and Mark Lanteri who all normally frequent The Grove Coffee shop. Me and Michael had a discussion alone outside whilst having a cigarette.

5. I called Michael's bluff and told him if his brother was able to fulfil the requirements of delivering certain chemicals then I would allow Michael to deal direct with me in terms of buying small amounts of amphetamine. Shortly after, a meeting was set at La Porchetta Restaurant in Reservoir where I met with Michael and his brother Savas for the first time. This was approximately a week after my first discussion with Michael at the Japanese Restaurant.
6. We discussed precursor chemicals. Savas told me he could get pseudoephedrine, hypo phosphorous acid, iodine, P2P, methylamine, mercury chloride, benzaldehyde, butamine, and hydrogen bromine and all the chemicals used in the manufacture of methylamphetamine or MDMA. I had no idea how he was going to source the chemicals except the prior knowledge obtained from Horthy and Tony that he had a chemical supplier in Sydney.
7. Savas told me he was initially from Melbourne. He moved to Sydney after his association with Jason Moran and because he became known to police in 2004. I didn't know him at this point, though I knew of him through Horthy and Tony Mokbel.
8. At the meeting I told Savas that I would leave the situation in his hands and for him to bring me samples of what ever it was he could get, that we had discussed at that meeting, knowing very well that he didn't have a chemistry background. At some point I gave Savas a mobile telephone and I had another mobile telephone that we would use exclusively to call each other. I can't remember either of these telephone numbers.
9. He brought samples on a monthly basis all proving to be chemicals close to their description, but not quite. These samples of chemicals were in small bottles like a 'Blackmore' vitamins bottle or in a film canister. He would tell me what chemical he thought it was and I would check it by its look, smell and texture. On occasions I could test a chemical, like pseudoephedrine for example, by placing a



small portion on foil and burning it. Often the chemical would not be what Savas said it was. This aggravated me as the meetings always turned out to be a waste of time. The meetings were held at Bar 20, Spearmint Rhino and a car park in Port Melbourne out the front of the Waterfront Restaurant. We had about 10 meetings in total between August 2005 until my arrest in April 2006. His frustration and mine would end up in arguments time after time as he was convinced that he had the right chemicals. These meetings continued over many months hence I never really took Savas seriously and in fact our meetings became kind of a joke as he always brought the wrong chemicals and on occasions he brought the same chemicals in different bottles.

10. In February 2006 he called me and told me he was in Melbourne and that he had something for me to see. I was at the Spearmint Rhino with friends where I told him to meet me there as the place is loud with music and people and we could talk without being overheard. He met me a short while later and presented a small medicine bottle containing a substance which he believed to be P2P. I took this bottle into the toilet where I could get a closer look as well as have a smell of it. Right away I knew it was something far more valuable than P2P. It was in fact MDP2P the pre-cursor used in the manufacture of MDMA. I continued to allow him to believe it was just P2P which I believed would help in the negotiations to secure it at a lower price.
11. The going price for P2P was normally \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 a litre but recently that has almost doubled as there is now a shortage of these precursors and most chemicals due to the new laws imposed by the government on the war against terror. He wanted \$30,000.00 a litre which I thought was a little expensive and we negotiated an average price of \$25,000.00 per litre. I asked him how much he could get and he told me that it was unlimited. At this time I was not convinced he was able to acquire the ketone on such a large scale. He told me he couldn't make that decision right now as he had to speak to his people about the \$25,000.00 figure. He said he was told by them not to negotiate anything



under \$30,000.00. This was further proof to me that this was just another scam that Savas normally plays.

12. However, shortly thereafter, within two days in fact, he called me again where again we met at Spearmint Rhino and much to my bewilderment he told me he had 10 litres in the boot of his car. He brought to my attention that the P2P actually made MDMA and tried to negotiate at the \$30,000.00 figure once again. I however told him that the processes involved are much more intense and that \$30,000.00 it was not viable for me to take such a risk and that at \$25,000.00 it would be doable and that was my last say. He accepted the price at \$25,000.00.
13. I was taken much by surprise that he had the 10 litres of ketone and was forced to do something that I was not really prepared for. We drove back to my house in our own cars. His car was a rented silver colour Holden Commodore executive, late model sedan. I think he uses Avis to hire vehicles from. He had parked his car in [REDACTED] Avenue, which runs on the side of my house, 50 meters from my roller door, in front of the park.
14. I then went to underneath the bottom draw in my kitchen where I kept vast amounts of cash and proceeded to count out \$210,000.00 in cash in 50's and 100's. This money was from previous drugs sales and/or money won at casinos. I placed it in a Jeans West plastic bag and handed it to Savas Pastras who was waiting outside in his car. He opened the bag and counted the bundles which were in \$10,000.00 lots. I still owed him \$40,000.00 which I told him that I would have in three to four weeks.
15. A discussion between us at this point proceeded where he told me that he was very interested in buying the MDMA powder once I had completed converting the ketone into product for \$100,000.00 per kilogram. He told me that he had people that were prepared to take the 10 kilograms. I told him that we would talk more about this once the product has been transformed. I also made a suggestion to



him that he could secure this by supplying me the methylamine needed to convert the ketone and therefore I would make him the exclusive buyer. He said to me that sounded reasonable and he would work on getting me the methylamine required. Our conversation ended and I took two 5 litre plastic containers with Japanese writing on the side each containing ketone out of the boot of his car, placed them in a sports bag and took them back to my garage. I had them sitting on the floor near the rear of the roller door.

16. This got me worried as I didn't really know him well enough and thought in my mind's eye that an attempt to rob my house would now be inevitable. However I didn't give this much thought at this time. My main objective was to secure the ketone. The next morning I moved it to the Preston factory at the rear of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
17. This was another contingency plan I had now set up for the future. My biggest problem now was to secure enough methylamine to be able to convert the 10 litres of ketone into MDMA powder. I was in the process of trying to arrange this by acquiring the methylamine from Shane Moran or Savas Pastras.
18. Two or three days later Savas rings me and tells me he has 10 litres of methylamine. I arrange to meet with him at the McDonald's car park in South Melbourne at 2 am. I went in a [REDACTED] Burgundy in colour, belonging to a friend of mine by the name of [REDACTED]. I parked across the road from McDonald's. Savas was in an early model brown commodore sedan which was also parked across the road. There was another person driving Savas but I did not know who he was. He was a tall guy slender gentleman with short hair, dark complexion and oriental eyes. On arrival I went into the McDonald's store and Savas was sitting at a table, about 5 to 10 metres from the toilets waiting for me. Savas and I went for a walk and discussed how much amine he had as well as the percentage of water to gas and the price per litre. We agreed on by providing the amine I would pay the price with 200 grams of pure MDMA valued at about [REDACTED]

\$30,000.00. I told Savas he would have product before my plea. The other gentleman placed the amine which was in a red 10 litre jerry can in the back of the [REDACTED]. I then left. I took the amine back to my place, took it out of the car and placed it in the garage. I noticed that the container was not full therefore it could not have been a full 10 litres. I estimate there was only 6.5 litres present. I later moved this amine to [REDACTED]

19. Savas tried to contact me after the second week but I refused to answer the phone as complications had come into play due to the ketone owned by Milad and Horthy Mokbel being seized by the police. I needed to convert the 17 litres for Milad and Horthy in order to pay Savas the outstanding \$40,000.00. I didn't want to speak to Savas until I had the cash. I haven't spoken to Savas since.
20. I used 'Citylink' to travel to and from McDonald's. [REDACTED] later told me she receives fines as her [REDACTED] didn't have an e-tag.
21. On my arrest at Strathmore the ketone and amine was seized and is now in the hands of the police. These were still both in the same containers that I had received them in from Savas.

Mr Cooper

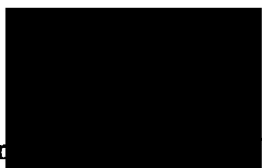
Statement taken and [REDACTED] by
Me this 6 day of August 2006 at Melbourne.



Dale Flynn
Detective Sergeant 26168

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



Acknowledgement  witnessed
By me this 6th Day of August 2006 at Melbourne.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dale Flynn'.

Dale Flynn
Detective Sergeant 26168