

**IN THE CORONERS COURT OF MELBOURNE
AT MELBOURNE**

No. 1710 and 1711 of 2004

IN THE INQUESTS into the deaths of Christine and Terence Hodson

AFFIDAVIT REGARDING NICOLA GOBBO

Deponent: [REDACTED]

Date Sworn: 16 May 2014

Filed on behalf of the Chief Commissioner of Police, an interested party

Prepared by:

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I [REDACTED] of the Victoria Police Centre, 637 Flinders Street, Melbourne in the State of Victoria, Senior Sergeant of Victoria Police, make oath and say as follows:

1. I make this affidavit on behalf of the Chief Commissioner of Police (CCP).
2. I am a [REDACTED] at Victoria Police located in the Witness Security Unit which is part of the Intelligence and Covert Support Command at Victoria Police I have held this position since 2009.
3. I make this affidavit on behalf of the CCP and from my own knowledge except where otherwise indicated. Where I depose as to information that is not within my knowledge, I believe that information to be true.
4. The Witness Security Unit is in charge of managing the safety of persons (including witnesses), who have involvement with Victoria Police and who may be at risk of serious injury or death.
5. In 2014, I, and other members of the Witness Security Unit conducted a risk assessment of Nicola Gobbo (**Gobbo**).
6. I assessed the risks to Gobbo to be 'high'. This means that I consider there is a likelihood that Gobbo is in danger of serious injury or death.

PII [REDACTED]

7. On 19 March 2014, I was informed by the Coroner's Investigator that Gobbo might be called to give evidence in the inquest into the deaths of Terence Bernard Hodson and Christine Elizabeth Hodson (**Hodson Inquest**).
8. I am aware that the Inquest Brief contains the Gobbo Statement and other documents relating to Gobbo and her involvement with Paul Dale.
9. I am informed by the legal representatives assisting the Coroner that it is unlikely that Gobbo will be called to give evidence at the Hodson Inquest.
10. I have grave concerns about the publication or disclosure in open Court of any of the following information:
 - 10.1 the name or image of Gobbo in connection with the Hodson Inquest or any information that would identify or tend to identify Gobbo in connection with the Hodson Inquest (**Inquest Information**);
 - 10.2 any information derived from, or connected with, the Hodson Inquest that would identify or tend to identify Gobbo in connection with the Magistrates Court of Victoria proceeding *Dave v Dale & Collins* (No X01602682) or Supreme Court of Victoria proceeding *DPP (Cth) v Dale* (No SCR 2012 0012) (**Dale Proceedings Information**); or
 - 10.3 any information derived from, or connected with, the Hodson Inquest stating or implying that Gobbo is or was an informer for Victoria Police or otherwise identifying or tending to identify Gobbo as an informer for Victoria Police (**Informer Information**).
11. In my opinion, the disclosure of any of the Inquest Information, the Dale Proceedings Information or the Informer Information would place Gobbo at the highest possible risk of serious injury or death. In forming this view I have assessed all of the available information in relation to the risks posed to Gobbo, including the information set out in my confidential affidavit sworn the same date as this affidavit.
12. I have grave fears for Gobbo's safety because of the capabilities of the persons identified as threats to Gobbo.


- 13. I also have grave concerns about any of the Inquest Information, the Dale Proceedings Information or the Informer Information being referred to during the Hodson Inquest in open Court because there is no control over how this information will be used, or who will receive the information.
- 14. For the reasons explained in my confidential affidavit sworn the same date as this affidavit, in my opinion putting any of this information in the public domain would place Gobbo at the highest possible risk of serious injury or death.

SWORN at
 in the State of Victoria
 on 16 May 2014

Before me:

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 Deponent

PII 

Monika Pekevsk
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 meaning of the *Legal Profession Act 2004*
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