



## QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE STATEMENT OF WITNESS



QP 0125A  
05/22  
A1

Occurrence #: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement no.: **1**

Date: **04/07/2022**

Statement of

Name of witness: **HUGHES, Andrea Lee**

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: **■** Occupation: **Police Officer**

Police officer taking statement

Name: **HUGHES, Andrea Lee**

Rank: **Constable** Reg. no.: **4041322**

Region/Command/Division: **North Coast Region** Station: **Redcliffe**

Statement:

I, Andrea Lee HUGHES state:

1. I am currently a Constable of Police performing Immediate Response in the Peninsula Patrol Group.
2. I graduated from the QPS academy on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 and have been stationed at Redcliffe Police Station since.
3. I began at the Academy on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. The first 10 weeks of the program were theory based completing Online Learning Products (OLPs), Power Point presentations and the subjects were then discussed in lecture type forums with Academy facilitators. OLPs were completed either individually or in groups. Domestic and Family Violence was one of the many topics covered in this manner.
4. At the end of the 10 weeks of theory and using the information learnt from these presentations, recruits participated and were assessed in two scenarios as the Investigating Officer. These scenarios were staged by Academy facilitators and fellow recruits. In Domestic and Family Violence scenarios, recruits were required to enter a 'house' detain all persons for domestic violence and obtain versions, notebook entries, complete appropriate paperwork (handwritten PPN only) and the scenario was concluded.
5. The scenarios conducted were extremely tame, sometimes completed in a classroom where it was difficult to imagine you were in an environment where DV was occurring. The facilitators would pause scenarios, provide advice and instruct recruits to restart. I feel that these scenarios are nothing like what is experienced in the community. The new facilities at B.A.O.C.C. would have been more beneficial for these scenarios due to the purpose-built houses, yards, town like set-up where DV typically occurs.

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **HUGHES, Andrea Lee**

6. Since leaving the academy, I have attended a First Year training day where we completed a DFV refresher and discussed jobs we have attended to reflect, seek support and advice from peers and ETO staff. Further to this, I have completed a mandatory Domestic and Family Violence Policing Enhancement Training OLP.
7. As a recruit I was given the opportunity to perform Station Duty for 3 shifts to observe jobs and how Police Officers respond to these. Whilst this time is beneficial, I feel that further time would benefit recruits in having a better understanding of how to approach and conduct investigations into a variety of jobs, particularly Domestic Violence prior to being operational.
8. Since being an operational Police Officer, I have attended many Domestic Violence related jobs. The first few times walking into these jobs I can honestly say that I felt like I had absolutely no idea what I was doing. I have an understanding of the powers relating to Domestic Violence investigations; however, I feel that the training provided at the Academy did not prepare us for running a job from start to finish. This includes briefing and seeking approval from a shift supervisor, creating the occurrence on QPrime, information that is required in the grounds for a Police Application, preparing documentation for court, serving documents on the Aggrieved and Respondent.
9. The process of completing a Domestic Violence investigation from start to finish can be extremely time consuming, sometimes up to 4 hours. With the current Service Delivery Redesign Project (SDRP), stations within Moreton District are often working with one or two crews rostered from each station, going job to job sometimes before being able to complete necessary paperwork and therefore are not afforded the time necessary to complete a thorough investigation into Domestic Violence.
10. Some of the key issues that I have experienced whilst completing a Domestic Violence job include:
  - Determining if a relevant relationship exists between the parties - parties can often be hesitant or unable to provide accurate information, conflicting views on what each party believes the relationship to be
  - Determining what, if any, domestic violence has occurred – conflicting stories from parties, unco-operative
  - Quite a lot of jobs Police are attending are classified as DV without knowledge of parties involved
  - not having resources available to assist with transport of a Respondent to a watchhouse or Police Station
  - not having additional officers available to assist in the separation of parties in order to maintain officer safety whilst an investigation is completed
  - an Aggrieved being unco-operative and not willing to provide information or a statement

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **HUGHES, Andrea Lee**

- low staffing levels to allow officers time to focus on and complete a thorough investigation
  - Officers having to brief the Shift Supervisor or DDO over the phone whilst at the job to obtain guidance and authorisation, this often means one officer is maintaining control of 2 parties (and occasionally other parties that are present)
  - Obtaining adequate notebook statements as opposed to versions as taught at the Academy, particularly when the parties' emotions are high
  - Occasionally having more than one crew attend a job where each Officer obtains a version from parties/witnesses and the investigating officer then has to obtain an abbreviated version from each of them
  - Aggrieved not in agreeance and ignoring conditions on an order allowing Respondents to return and Domestic Violence continuing, therefore creating further repeat calls for service
11. Within the Moreton District, crews are rostered either on Immediate Response Team (IRT), Alternate Response Team (ART) In or Out. ART shifts are generally appointment-based Code 4 jobs that require an officer or two to meet with typically an Aggrieved to obtain information that was unable to be provided at the time an incident had occurred.
12. ART appointments are scheduled by MDTACC and appointment reminders are sent by text message to the person attending.
13. Some of the key issues of ART appointments include:
- appointments only being allocated 1 hour, not allowing time to cover the full situation, obtain a statement, complete necessary paperwork whilst often managing an emotional Aggrieved
  - persons not arriving on time or at all
  - attending an address and the person not being home at the scheduled time
14. ART appointments are generally conducted in a more controlled environment, I believe that allowing extra time for each job would greatly assist Officers in completing a thorough investigation.
15. I believe that there could be an alternate way for officers to handle breaches of Domestic Violence orders where there is no immediate threat to the party (i.e. email or text messages) by way of an ART appointment or investigation crew, which will free up general response/IRT crews to respond to jobs with an immediate threat.
16. I have learnt best with 'on the job' training for most areas of Policing. Theoretical training has assisted with gaining the knowledge of powers relating to Domestic Violence however due to the varying nature of Domestic Violence jobs the best


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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **HUGHES, Andrea Lee**

way to learn is to attend jobs, speak to parties, observe fellow officers and reflect on performance.

17. Since becoming an operational Police Officer I have not had any involvement with Domestic Violence support units within the organisation. I understand that these units review all Domestic Violence occurrences. I believe it would be beneficial to Officers to have someone from these units available on every shift to seek advice from and possibly give them the responsibility to authorise a Domestic Violence occurrence. Often the only advice provided by the unit is given at the completion of a job and this may come with a rework for various reasons.



Andrea Lee HUGHES

*Justices Act 1886*

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(6C)(c) of the *Justices Act 1886* that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated **04/07/2022** and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 4 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.

.....Signature

Signed at Redcliffe this 4th day of July 2022.



(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/  
Commissioner for Declarations' signature)

