



# QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS



QP 0125  
01/06  
Δ16

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

Statement no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: **05/07/2022**

### Statement of

Name of witness: **ROBINSON, Tammie Lee**

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

### Police officer taking statement

Name: **ROBINSON, Tammie Lee**

Rank: **Senior Constable** Reg. no.: **4036901**

Region/Command/Division: **SER, Logan** Station: **Jimboomba**

### Statement:

Tammie ROBINSON states:

### Career Experience

1. I am a Senior Constable within the Queensland Police Service stationed at Jimboomba.
2. I graduated from the Oxley Police Academy in February 2017.
3. I have been stationed at Jimboomba Station in the Logan District since August 2018
4. Prior to joining the Police Academy, I worked for the Queensland Ambulance Service as an emergency medical dispatcher.

### Domestic & Family Violence (DFV) Training

#### Police Academy

5. When I was at the Police Academy ('the Academy'), I received DFV Phase training. That training covered relevant legislation, the definition of DFV and relevant relationships.
6. My Academy training also involved role playing scenarios to visualise how to respond to DFV incidents.
7. I was instructed about Police Protection Notices (PPNs) at the Academy despite the fact that, at the time, PPNs were not in use. Shortly after being confirmed as a Police officer PPNs came into use

#### Post Academy Training

8. During my First Year Constable (FYC) program I completed a DFV component. The component required me to demonstrate that I had attended a DFV incident, identified that DFV had occurred within a relevant relationship and to provide a sample of DFV occurrence that I had completed.

(Witness's signature)

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

(Signature of police officer  
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **ROBINSON, Tammie Lee**

9. Since leaving the Academy I have completed the following Online Learning Products (OLP's) offered by QPS:

- Domestic and Family Violence Training on 4 July 2017;
- Domestic Violence and Related Matters 5 May 2018;
- Coercive Control 19 February 2022.

10. Beyond the training outlined above I have not received, or volunteered for, any DFV training.

*Training Improvement Opportunities*

11. I feel that my ability to respond to and investigate DFV would benefit from further face to face training beyond the OLPs that I have completed.

12. In particular, I would be assisted by further training in understanding the DFV legislation.

*Nature of the DFV Training*

13. I learn from a combination of theoretical, practical and on the job training. I have benefited from being told how something needs to be done as well as shown how to do it. I would

14. While having responsibility for two FYCs, they reported that it was helpful to see a senior officer in action. As such, I see the benefit of training that is both theoretical, practical and on the job.

*Interaction with the Domestic Family Violence & Vulnerable Persons Unit (DFVVPU)*

15. I am had some telephone interaction with the DFVVPU at Beenleigh whilst stationed at Jimboomba.

16. On one occasion the DFVVPU helpfully assisted with an objection to bail for a respondent who was repeatedly breaching a protection order.

17. Unfortunately, there have been times when I have attempted to contact the DFVVPU for support but was unable to reach them due to the service not operating as 24 hour service.




18. On one occasion, when dealing with a complex DFV incident, I contacted the DFVVPU for assistance with determining whether a relevant relationship existed. On that occasion the DFVVPU could not adequately assist and simply confirmed that the scenario was a difficult one to determine. I recall that I had spoke to superiors at my station and we determined the answer that way.

*Challenges in responding to and investigating DFV*

19. I have encountered several challenges when responding to and investigating DFV.

Court & Court Process

20. An ongoing challenge arises from varying expectations of Magistrates about the documentation required for an application. Withing the Logan District there are Magistrates that have different expectations about what documentation is necessary for an application.

 (Witness's signature)	 (Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/ Commissioner for Declarations's signature)	 (Signature of police officer preparing statement)
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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **ROBINSON, Tammie Lee**

21. I have encountered inconsistency amongst the Magistracy in making temporary protection orders (TPO), regardless of the documentation. For example, in Beaudesert the Magistrate rarely makes a temporary order whilst in Beenleigh it is rare for the Magistrate to refuse an application for a TPO. Differing approaches in the Magistracy make it challenging for crews who are responding to DFV when the outcome, and the protection available for an aggrieved, can vary from Court to Court. It can be difficult to explain to an aggrieved why a TPO has not been ordered by a court - this is particularly so where a PPN has been taken out but no TPO made and the application adjourned for 6 weeks (leaving the aggrieved without protection in circumstances where Police considered the aggrieved in need of protection).
22. Further, the form of evidence required for a contested application can cause challenges. For example, because the hearing is in the civil jurisdiction affidavits must be witnessed by a Justice of the Peace (JP). This can cause difficulties for an aggrieved because there is not always a JP available when the affidavit is taken which results in the witness having to attend the station several times.
23. In my experience, there is a lack of resources available about what current forms and documents are necessary for a civil brief of evidence. Whilst the structure and order of a criminal brief is well known, this has not been my experience when compiling a brief of evidence for a contested application for a Protection Order.
24. At times, Prosecutors have withdrawn applications for a Protection Order without explanation to the investigating officer. It can be difficult for frontline officers to inform an aggrieved that no Order was sought or made in the absence of an explanation.
25. At other times, particularly when an aggrieved does not wish to proceed with an application, in order to withdraw the application the Prosecution require the approval of the investigating officer's OIC. In my view, involving the Station OIC rather than the Prosecutions OIC involves a person with little to no knowledge about the matter rather than remain the responsibility of the Police Prosecutions Core.
26. I have had experience where a NGO agency has, at court, convinced an aggrieved to withdraw an application for protection order. This undermines the Police work to protect the aggrieved.

Job Tasking

27. When calls for service are received a communications operator records the job in LCAD. Based on the information received, some calls for service are coded as DFV incidents without complete information about the incident. In my experience, this approach can undermine the autonomy of frontline officers who attend and determine that there is, in fact, no DFV. The low threshold for coding DFV incidents can lead to extra work for first responders who require approval to remove the DFV code.

Understanding DFV

28. A challenge when responding to DFV incidents is determining what is DFV, or a relevant relationship, in each unique scenario. This leads to frontline crews calling for assistance Sergeants or District Duty Officers (DDOs).

29. Whilst crews regularly seek assistance from Supervisors or District Duty Officers there is, at times, an inconsistent approach to whether [redacted] make a

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

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(Signature of police officer  
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **ROBINSON, Tammie Lee**

referral. It has been my experience that decisions can be influenced by fear rather than in response to the specific scenarios or an in depth understanding of DFV. That is, fear of reprisal for making the wrong decision or featuring in the media.



Tammie Robinson

*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 6 July 2022 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 5 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 Jimboomba this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022.



(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/  
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)(Signature of police officer  
preparing statement)