

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE RESPONSES TO DOMESTIC
AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950
Section 5(1)(d)

STATEMENT OF PAUL TRINDER

Name of Witness:	Paul Trinder
Date of birth:	[REDACTED]
Current address:	[REDACTED]
Occupation:	Police officer
Contact details (phone/email):	[REDACTED]
Statement taken by:	Julie Aylward

I Paul Trinder make oath and state as follows:

1. I am a serving police officer with the Queensland Police Service and hold the rank of Sergeant. I have been a police officer for 29 years.
2. I commenced at the Police Academy in 1992 and was sworn in on 23 January 1993. I spent my first year at Metro North working in Brisbane City and Fortitude Valley. In 1995 I was promoted to Senior Constable at the Brisbane Watchhouse. In 1996 I worked at the Fortitude Valley station before becoming the Office in Charge at the Police Beat in Brunswick Street in 1999. In 2000 I then commenced as a firearms trainer at the Oxley Police Academy. I remained at the Police Academy until 2012 in a number of roles including Curriculum developer, police recruit training program, and firearms training. I was an acting Senior Sergeant for periods of time during my time at the Academy.
3. In 2012 I went on long service leave and then resigned, working for a private company for 8 months. I returned to the QPS later that same year, commencing as a Constable at Morningside station in general duties, and progressing back to Senior Constable a short time later. I was then promoted back to my previous role at the Academy as a Sergeant.



for a period of three years. In 2018 the Academy supported me back to general duties at Holland Park where I am currently shift supervisor.

4. A significant proportion of general duties work on a daily basis is responding to DFV complaints
5. As shift supervisor I supervise operational uniform officers, including first responders. I am on the road and monitor and support officers on daily basis, attending jobs where they may need support and overseeing their work. I also have delegation to approve responses to DFV callouts. Each identified and confirmed DV callout needs to be finalised in one of three ways – No DV, DV – Other Action or DV – Breach/Contravention. The officers will advise me of the circumstances of the callout and I am required to approve the appropriate decision.
6. Where a Police Protection Notice is sought, there are some conditions, such as an ouster condition, that I do not have the delegation to approve and which require the approval of a District Duty Officer.

My experiences as a police officer responding to domestic and family violence

7. The level of response, and associated service, to members of the public that provide complaints of Domestic and Family Violence is largely dependent upon which police officer the complaint is made to. The scale of service diverges so dramatically from literally nothing, treated by the officer as nothing more than a minor inconvenience to his or her day with no reporting undertaken what so ever, to an empathetic and consoling conversation that ultimately leads to significant and ongoing support for both the victim and their associated family, leading to placing the offending party before the courts.

Anecdotal Evidence

8. **Example 1**
A complaint of Domestic and Family Violence is made to police through the 'Policelink' reporting line. The complaint is assessed and reassigned to the station responsible for follow up investigation of the complaint, and is tasked to a member of the work unit for relevant enquiries to be made. The tasked officer does not open the task and holds it for two months; the tasked officer is transferred to a neighboring patrol group and sends the task back to the station stating "reassign to another officer as I am transferring". The supervisor sends the task back to the originally assigned officer asking for an explanation and instructions to 'do their job'. The tasked officer does not respond to this direction but rather has a junior colleague at the new station send it back making a veiled threat as they had the belief the direction was unlawful in some way.

9. Example 2

A complaint of Domestic and Family Violence is made through 'Policelink' and is escalated on to the Police Communications Centre. The 'job' is allocated to a station but is given a Code 4 priority designation, as the complainant does not want police to attend her home, as she is fearful of how her defacto partner may react. A friend of the complainant makes a call to her local station to make an appointment for the complainant to speak with an officer regarding the details of her friend's complaint, at which time she is told to 'just attend' the station during opening hours and an officer would speak with her. The complainant attends the station in the company of her friend, and her two children, the complainant engages the uniformed officer on 'counter' duty whereby she was asked who she spoke to regarding her complaint, the complainant's friend was not provided the name of the officer who spoke to her the previous day and was subsequently told by the 'counter' officer that he could not assist them as he did not speak with her in the first instance, and that she should come back another time when she is able to recall the other officers name.

10. The two examples provided above are NOT isolated incidents and are all too common across every station, division, district, and region. I am personally ashamed of this level of service from officers who are trusted with the protection of the vulnerable in our community. In both instances above the victims were finally referred to more senior officers who investigated their complaints, provided ongoing feedback to them, appropriate levels of consideration, empathy and support, and brought the perpetrators before the courts to answer for their actions, but both victims were treated so very poorly initially that they must have felt isolated, without support from the very organisation that is trusted to support them in their hour of need, and ultimately helpless and at the hands of manipulative and violent offenders.

11. Both of the officers in the examples provided were not very junior members; they were not first year constables, but rather senior constables. They were spoken to in relation to how they may have assisted these victims of Domestic and Family Violence more appropriately but ultimately there were absolutely NO consequences. In the first instance provided the supervisor even furnished a QP466 complaint of misconduct against the officer but again no tangible consequences, no learning, and most alarmingly no behavior change from the officer concerned.

Witness signature

Justice of the Peace/Commissioner for Declarations/Lawyer



OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)

I Paul Trinder do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

- (1) This written statement by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief: and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything I know to be false.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1867*.

[Redacted signature]

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Taken and declared before me at HOLLAND PARK this 7TH day of APRIL 2022.

Taken By [Redacted]

Justice of the Peace / Commissioner for Declarations / Lawyer



[Redacted witness signature]

← Witness signature

[Redacted signature]

Justice of the Peace/Commissioner for Declarations/Lawyer

