



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: _____ Date: **14/07/2022**

Statement of

Name of witness: **SINGH, Amit**

Date of birth: _____ Age: _____ Occupation: **Police Officer**

Police officer taking statement

Name: _____

Rank: _____ Reg. no.: _____

Region/Command/Division: _____ Station: _____

Statement:

Amit Singh States:

Career Experience

1. I am the Officer in Charge of Aurukun Police Station. I have held that position for 3 months.
2. I have worked as a police officer for 14 ½ years. I have served in remote communities for 11 years. Throughout my police career I have worked in Brisbane, Mount Isa, Doomadgee, Harvey Bay, Camooweal, Normanton, Northern Territory, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Aurukun.
3. Aurukun Station has 20 staff, ranking from Constable to Sergeant. The staff are normally very junior in service.

Domestic and Family Violence (DFV)

4. In Aurukun we attend about 60 occurrences of DFV per month. DFV is primarily reported through calls for service. On occasion, a DFV victim will come to the Police Station counter to report the matter.



(Witness's signature)

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

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: SINGH, Amit

5. Most DFV applications in Aurukun are made by police. I have not been made aware of a private DFV application since I have been stationed at Aurukun.
6. Police do apply for DFV cross orders when it is deemed necessary. We also seek non-contact conditions to protect the victims.
7. In my experience, when Police respond to and investigate DFV, we can face challenges obtaining statements from victims. For example, Police in Aurukun identify a fair number of breaches of DFV Orders however, often, a victim does not want to provide a statement. As such, the offender does not get charged with the breach offence.
8. In my opinion a great amount of coercive control happens in the Aurukun community. There is the shame factor that victims are subjected to and victims can be threatened with black magic if they report DFV.

Policing in First Nations Communities

9. Historically, police and First Nations communities don't have a good relationship. Over the years there has been a lot of effort made by the Service to build a positive relationship with First Nations communities.
10. In my experience engaging with community in a positive manner through community sports, learning language and culture (including trying some traditional foods) builds a positive relationship between police and First Nations People, which in turn breaks down barriers.
11. Once the barriers are down, I believe there is a greater chance that police will get better compliance with victims to provide statements so the offenders can be charged.
12. I also believe that Police Liaison Officers are instrumental in breaking down relationship barriers between police and community - especially around language and explaining culture to the officers.



(Witness's signature)

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

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: SINGH, Amit

13. Whilst there has been a lot of work undertaken by QPS in providing education around cultural induction, in my opinion more can be done to provide better, community-specific education and understanding to new officers transferring to First Nations communities.

14. In the stations I have previously worked at, cultural induction documents were given to the new officers to read and sign. There was also an introduction to the elders to the community. I am in the process of doing a similar package for new staff arriving at Aurukun.

[Redacted signature area]

Amit Singh

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 14/07/2022 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 3 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.

[Redacted signature area]Signature

Signed at Cairns this 14th day of July 2022.

[Redacted witness signature]

(Witness's signature)

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

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)