QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

QP 0125A
05/22
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Occurrence #: -

Statement no.: 1 Date: 29/07/2022

Statement of

Name of witness: **JACKSON Brett**

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

Police officer taking statement

Name: **JACKSON Brett**

Rank: **Acting Inspector** Reg. no.: [redacted]

Region/Command/Division: **SER / Logan District** Station: **Logan Central**

Statement:

1. I am currently the Acting Inspector for the Northern Patrol Group, Logan District, South Eastern Region for the Queensland Police Service (QPS).

2. My substantive role is Senior Sergeant, Officer in Charge (OIC), Logan Central Police Station, which I have performed since 16th April 2019.

3. I have 21 years policing experience, having joined the Queensland Police service in 2001. During this time, I have undertaken various roles including, Officer in Charge Logan Central, District Duty Officer Gold Coast, Detective Sergeant Senior Investigator State Flying Squad, Detective Sergeant Senior Investigator Mackay Criminal Investigation Branch, as well as a number of uniform positions across South Brisbane District.

4. As the OIC of Logan Central Police Division, I am responsible for the frontline officers providing policing service delivery to the communities of Logan Central, Woodridge, Kingston, Underwood, Berrinba, Loganlea and parts of Slacks Creek and Waterford West.

5. The population for Logan Central Police Division according to the 2016 Census was 63,578. Logan Central Police Division is a low socio-economic area with above average statistics for unemployed and public housing. Logan City is also one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse cities in Australia with over 215 different cultures.

6. Logan Central Police Division has 89 sworn officers, which includes 10 supervisors that hold the rank of Sergeant. There are also 11 administration staff providing support to those frontline officers.

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7. Logan Central Police division experiences a large number of calls for service in respect to Domestic and Family Violence (D&FV). In 2020/2021 financial year the division experienced 2253 calls for service, and in 2021/2022 financial year the division has experienced 2297 calls for service. *(Statistics from QPS – Response & Attendance Dashboard)*

8. Not only is the division experiencing an increase in D&FV calls for service, the average time taken to respond, investigate and resolve these calls for service has increased from 2020/2021 financial year 94 minutes to 2021/2022 financial year 99 minutes. Whilst only in mid-July, the 2022/2023 financial year data has increased to 112 minutes per resolution. *(Statistics from QPS – Response & Attendance Dashboard)*

9. The D&FV calls for service are resolved in a number of ways for example in 2021/2022 financial year, 41% were a breach of a current DVO, 21% were a new police application for a DVO, 28% were a referral to an external agency and 10% were a No DV (not a relevant relationship). *(Statistics from QPS – Demand Dashboard)*

10. As OIC of a policing division, I am responsible for reviewing calls for service, including to identify opportunities to reduce 'repeat calls' through development of 'case management' strategies, and then assign resources to action these strategies.

11. D&FV 'repeat calls' are managed at divisional level, through 'case management tasks' on QPrime (police computer system). Due to increasing D&FV calls for service and multiple cases of 'repeat calls', I decided to implement a strategy to improve the focus of frontline officers towards prevention and furthering aggrieved engagement.

12. In June 2021, I implemented a strategy of creating a 'Domestic Violence Engagement Team (DVET)' within the station. I identified the right officers for the team, through an expression of interest and subsequently created the DVET with six uniformed officers. Their focus was prevention of Domestic Violence, through more direct case management and victim engagement. The DVET also have responsibility for the service of DV Orders (document service) and any DV investigations that are assigned to Logan Central station.

13. Through consultation with DVET staff led by Acting Sergeant Megan Holley, we had an in-depth look at the success of DV referrals to support agencies, and identified opportunities for improvement, especially with respect to the low numbers of vulnerable victims accepting support.

14. I saw this as a 'gap' in service delivery to the Logan community, not only from a QPS perspective but also for D&FV service providers. In my opinion this significantly increased the risk to many vulnerable victims becoming susceptible to repeated Domestic Violence.

[redacted]

15. I had the opportunity to meet and talk openly about the 'gap' in service delivery with the manager of 'The Centre for Women & Co' ('CFW') Logan Central. We identified mutual benefits for service delivery enhancement, if we partnered together to provide an outreach response for aggrieved persons in Logan.

16. I then entered formal discussions with CFW, regarding the commencement of a Trial of a Co-Responder model. This resulted in a 'Deed of Agreement' signed under the hand of Assistant Commissioner Brian Wilkins and CEO Stacey Ross on 18th August 2021.

17. The purpose of this 'Deed of Agreement' was to form a partnership between Logan Central CFW and Logan Central DVET to ensure persons presenting as victims of domestic and family violence were afforded a good practice of protective and support services from police in conjunction with CFW. A CFW Domestic & Family Violence ('DFV') specialist ('Co-Responder') will assist the DVET by supporting officers to provide DFV best practice responses including but not limited to extensive risk assessment, safety planning, referrals to NGOs support services and training to the DVET officers.

18. In late August 2021, the initial trail of the DV Co-Responder saw CFW provide a case worker for two days a week to accompany a police officer to attend aggrieved residence and offer support and assistance, helping to break down barriers. This was a completely proactive 'outreach' case management strategy as opposed to a call for service response.

19. In late December 2021, this initial trail ceased after CFW funding expired.

20. As an OIC, I witnessed numerous benefits and improvement in service delivery to vulnerable aggrieved persons, exposure to case worker skills and communication styles and undertaking meaningful case management of repeat calls for service.

21. CFW undertook a review, which identified numerous success stories of vulnerable victims taking up offers of assistance, engaging in safety plans and breaking the cycle of DV.

22. In April 2022, CFW secured funding support from 'Small steps 4 Hannah' foundation to re-commence the trial for a 3-month period.

23. On 13 May 2022, a new Deed of Agreement was signed under the hand of Assistant Commissioner Shane Chelepy and CFW CEO Stacey Ross. Under this new Deed, Crestmead police joined with Logan Central police, with both stations forming DVET's to perform co-responding with CFW.

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

(Signature of police officer preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **JACKSON, Brett**

24. In May 2022, the current funding allowed CFW to provide a case worker four days a week, to service both police divisions.

25. The trial has shown a clear improvement in the skills and knowledge of the police officers assigned to the Co-Responder model. This improvement is no doubt closely aligned to the improved willingness and increased confidence of many aggrieved / victims accessing DV support after co-responder engagement, thus reducing the amount of repeated exposure to domestic violence, highlighted anecdotally through reduced cases of 'repeat calls for service'.

26. In my opinion, the DV Co-responder model has greatly enhanced the overall assistance, delivery of preventative services and quality of advice and support that Logan Central police provide to aggrieved / victims and their families.

27. Discussions between QPS (Logan) and CFW, along with the Logan District Domestic, Family Violence & Vulnerable Persons Unit (DFV & VPU) are currently being had, to determine how the DV Co-responder model fits into the current Service Delivery Redesign Program that is being implemented in Logan District and due to commence on 13 August 2022.

28. It is my recommendation that consideration be given to expanding and/or duplicating the 'DV Co-responder model', as the collaboration between QPS and Service providers such as CFW, will improve service delivery and best practice for both partners.

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 **29/07/2022** 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

[redacted] Signature

Signed at **Logan** (place) this **29th** (day) day of **July** (month), **2022** (year)

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