

**Transcript of Lottie Robertson (grandmother of Rickisha) - video statement – Yuendumu, 20 July 2022**

- We were attending the funeral for Jean’s younger brother. We were all finishing up, just returning to our car when we got a phone call. But everybody heard that shot and they all raced down, we all raced back. And then I got a phone call from my daughter in law – so and so has been shot. We all started uproar. We had just been to a big sad funeral for one of our family members and then we had another thing going and that was all. You know. Just too much. Just too much. We can’t get over that feeling. Every time we have to think about it. We all cried in our cars all driving back to that house. Everyone went into the house. What they saw there – really sadness came over them, what they saw.
- We all then decided we would all go to the police station. We all sat there for hours and hours and hours. People were crying. They were angry. Angry and all still crying. My granddaughter and me and my family sitting together. Everyone was in family groups but we were all came together as one. It was hard for us to get that feeling off our chest. It is a really strange thing that happened in our community. It happens in other places - in America, in Africa, wherever, in other states in Australia but not in outback like Yuendumu.
- We have many police working here getting to know the families, getting to know the culture. Many of our police force that are working here they come to know the families.
- This was a bad thing for the community that happened that day. Like where they can just come and shoot somebody like they do in the movies. It’s hard to believe.
- How can we ...we are a strong cultural people here in Yuendumu, in Papunya, wherever and we know that that kind of thing is not appropriate for us Indigenous people to be and know about it or see what happened you know because it’s too much. Today we are still thinking about it / talking about it. How can we get over that ?
- Some police are good. When you get to know them. That’s why, if they want to look for somebody they have to come through us. Some are good, they don’t look for recognition. These community police who have been working here. They should be recognised for doing a good job but the people like the ones who came in to do this thing, took a young man’s life. He’s not a hero. He’s just somebody who took somebody’s life. Losing somebody like that - It’s in our mind, it’s in our heart, it’s in our spirit. We still think about it. I don’t know about him, the man who took this life. I don’t know what he thinks. It’s just cutting short a young man’s life. He could have just found some way to be able to take him back without taking his life.
- You know, we need the government to understand that these people they are joining the police force, they can’t just come and be tough in our communities. There are Elders in this community they can be able to talk to. We don’t want another Rolfe coming into

our community to do these kind of things. We want to be able to work together, work together.

- Whatever the government thinks, the government has to realise that we are the Indigenous people of this land. And we want to be able to help our young people.
- I really miss him. All the time I talk about him.
- If there is a way in the Northern Territory that that kind of thing won't happen again in the Territory. I know it is happening in Darwin but here in these Central Australian remote communities, we want to be able to be strong, strong. We want to build strong connection with the police that are working in the community so that we can work together and not be able to let others come in and do bad things in our community. We want to be able to be strong just to look after our young people because they are our generation. We won't live for ever, but we want to be able to teach our young people and help them go through this life. Teaching them, talking to them, whatever things they are doing that's bad for them - alcohol, whatever drugs they are taking. We want to be able to talk to them.
- That's a way we can remember that young fella. To be able to help other young people, save their lives. Yes, because right now every day I talk about him it's too emotional for me.
- It's very hard for me to talk about this all the time because I lived with him. I cared for him. I cared for him in this house. My granddaughter found joy and happiness with him. We talk about him all the time, even our family do it. And it's a very strange picture that we see all the time in our mind. How his life was cut short by a stranger, by a strange weapon.

**[9 minutes]**