

Date : 20/06/2020  
Location : First Floor, Alice Springs Police Station, Parsons Street, ALICE SPRINGS NT  
Conversation Between : Detective Senior Sergeant Lee MORGAN  
Senior Aboriginal Community Police Officer Derek WILLIAMS  
Also Present : Detective Senior Constable First Class Megan DUNCAN  
Conversation Commenced : 1400 hours  
Conversation Concluded : 1412 hours

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**Transcript accuracy disclaimer:**

*I, Detective Senior Sergeant Lee Morgan, of the Northern Territory Police, have checked the accuracy of this transcript and it appears to be a true and correct copy of a recorded statutory declaration made by Senior Aboriginal Community Police Officer Bradley Currie in the presence of Detective Senior Sergeant Lee Morgan Detective Senior Constable First Class Megan Duncan.*

MORGAN: The date is the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2020. The time is 2pm. Speaking is Detective Senior Sergeant Lee MORGAN. This is a recorded statutory declaration of Senior ACPO Derek WILLIAMS.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: This statement is being recorded at the Alice Springs Police Station. Derek, can you please tell me your full name.

WILLIAMS: Derek WILLIAMS.

MORGAN: And your date of birth?

WILLIAMS: ████████84

MORGAN: Which makes you how old?

WILLIAMS: 36.

MORGAN: And your currently a Senior Aboriginal Community Police Officer, is that correct?

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: And also present is another person. Can you just introduce yourself for the tape please?

DUNCAN: My name is Megan DUNCAN. I'm a Detective Senior Constable currently attached to the Sex Crimes Division. My registered number is 2062.

MORGAN: Thank you. Um, Derek, like I said to you before. This is just your statement. We just want to clear a few things up and also there will be the opportunity for you to say anything else that you wanna say. You know, in relation to this matter. So we'll start off. I'm just going to ask you a few questions and hopefully you can clear a few things up for us.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: Um, so first of all, I just want to ask a couple of questions about the night of that tragic incident in November at Yuendumu.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: Some things have come up in some statements from other people and we just want to ask you what you know about that stuff?

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: So there was one young girl made a statement and she said that um, after the shooting happened and most of the community were up around the police station, she thought she heard a gunshot and she thought police fired another bullet. Do you know anything about that or?

WILLIAMS: Na. I, I been there about all day, all night and I haven't heard anything like, all I heard was just doors shutting and um people scrambling inside...

MORGAN: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: But no, no gunshot.

MORGAN: Have, have any other community members um discussed that with you and said they were, they think that somebody fired a gun?

WILLIAMS: No.

MORGAN: Na, so maybe just one person thought that heard something yeah?

WILLIAMS: Yeah. Yep

MORGAN: Okay. That's good. Also, another statement somebody said that all the lights in the police station got turned off and the Police tried to make it look like the police station was closed and there was no one there.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: Do you remember if that happened?

WILLIAMS: No. um, I know for fact that the station's we've got sensor light when somebody enters the, enters the station the lights turn, turn on, turn on itself and but for that um front counter area where, because nobody was round that area.

MORGAN: Yep.

WILLIAMS: That's why the um light...

MORGAN: Light would have been off

WILLIAMS: Turned off yeah self, itself.

MORGAN: So in the main station if people are walking around the lights will just stay on all the time?

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MORGAN: Yep.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: Okay and you haven't heard anyone else talking about that um about the lights being turned off?

WILLIAMS: Na.

MORGAN: No. Okay. Excellent. Now I want to move onto the funeral that was happening that day on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November. It was um Saturday.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: Um and we all know that Kumanjayi was out at Yuendumu um did he have any role to play in that funeral?

WILLIAMS: Yeah, he had a big role to play. Um, his, because um the funeral was for his grandf, grandfather.

MORGAN: Yep.

WILLIAMS: Um so the lady who adopted Kumanjayi, Leanne OLDFIELD, her mother is a BROWN so this funeral was for one Kumanjayi BROWN and so yeah. He had a big...

MORGAN: Alright.

WILLIAMS: Role to play.

MORGAN: So just so I can, just so I can understand it clearly, the police went to arrest him and that's when that trouble started?

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: Had the funeral, the funeral was happening at that time?

WILLIAMS: Yeah, we were still at the gravesite. Um funeral was finished. Um people like we, um, covering the gravesite like with sand.

MORGAN: Yep.

WILLIAMS: And try to um and midway through that a young fellow came racing and...

MORGAN: Yeah. Yeah.

WILLIAMS: But people were still leaving...

MORGAN: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: The area, go back into the community (inaudible).

MORGAN: Had, had Kumanjayi been at the funeral earlier in the day?

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: And then he'd, he'd left?

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MORGAN: Okay. Um Detective DUNCAN, is there anything else you think needs to be explored around that? Just around Kumanjayi's involvement in the funeral?

DUNCAN: Just the, just the times, do you know what times he was there?

WILLIAMS: He was there definitely at the basketball court and um at the gravesite. That was roundabout 4 till about 5, 6 o'clock. Yeah.

MORGAN: So the basketball court, is that where the um service was done?

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MORGAN: Yep.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: And then from there, you went to the gravesite?

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: And then you stayed there and he had gone?

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

DUNCAN: And do you know who he left with?

WILLIAMS: No because we was too busy doing that gravesite so.

DUNCAN: Okay.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

DUNCAN: So he left about, he left the grave at about what time?

WILLIAMS: Probably between 5 and 6.

DUNCAN: Okay.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

DUNCAN: Yep.

MORGAN: So Derek, um the only thing, other thing we want to talk about is um back on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October last year, you're with Constable Layla WEATHERS?

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: At Yuendumu and um you ran into Rakisha and Leilani, oh sorry Layla had a conversation with Rakisha. Can you remember anything about that conversation?

WILLIAMS: No, because I was too focused on that young fellow who ran away.

MORGAN: Yep.

WILLIAMS: And um girls had their own um discussion and because and I couldn't see Rakisha because she was behind Lei, Leilani.

MORGAN: Yep.

WILLIAMS: And yeah.

MORGAN: Do you know what they were talking about at all?

WILLIAMS: It was about DVO um 'cause Kumanjayi was coming out that week or couple weeks' time and she wanted to um put a or help her get a DVO against Kumanjayi.

MORGAN: Okay. Um, Detective Duncan, any further exploration around that?

DUNCAN: Did you hear any of the conversation...

WILLIAMS: Na.

DUNCAN: About any, any, anything at all?

WILLIAMS: No.

DUNCAN: That Rakisha said?

WILLIAMS: No, I just heard

DUNCAN: Particularly, did she talk to you at all?

WILLIAMS: No, I just heard that Leilani talking about the DVO but I couldn't hear what Rakisha was saying because the engine was on and yeah.

MORGAN: Yep.

DUNCAN: Okay.



MORGAN: No worries. Um, so, so Derek as I'm sure you understand we're working on the coronial investigation for the Coroner.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: So a little bit different, well quite a lot different to um what the criminal investigation is doing.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: So we, we want to make sure we cover off on anything that the family is concerned about so is there anything at this stage that um you think we need to know about or we need to we need to investigate further. Is there, is there anything that you want to tell us? Any concerns that you've got?

WILLIAMS: No. Um it's just yeah one day the coppers who were there was doing a funeral and everything should have been left alone

MORGAN: Yeah

WILLIAMS: And yeah. That's what the concern was and also um because of um what you call them. It wasn't a big um he wasn't like, Kumanjaya didn't do something serious. it was for only for

MORGAN: He wasn't a murderer.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MORGAN: Yep.

WILLIAMS: It was only a little simple stuff, suspended something

MORGAN: Yep.

WILLIAMS: Or he ran away from CAAPU and, and the, the family just want to get clarification and also um yeah but why, what, why wasn't he um dealt with later on like later down, down the track?

MORGAN: That, that will definitely form part of our report for the Coroner.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: The Coroner is definitely interested in that um as we are and as I'm sure that our bosses are as well.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: I think we'll understand things could have been done differently

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: Um and that's not pointing the finger at anybody, that's just, we have to learn from what happened.

WILLIAMS: Yeah. Yep.

MORGAN: And make sure we get it better next time.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MORGAN: So um I will send you an email so you'll have my phone number, email so if anything comes up that you know, if the family are talking about something um that hasn't been covered, you pick the phone up and ring me or send me an email and we make sure that we'll talk to you about it and we can try and explore it. Like we said to you, we want to come out there, um we want to speak

to Leanne, um Joseph LANE, there is a few other people that we'd like to speak to but right now the lawyers have said um the family don't want to speak to us.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MORGAN: So, that's okay. We will respect those wishes.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: Hopefully um, in the next few months the lawyers will travel over from Sydney or Melbourne or wherever they are and we'll be able to come out there at the same time as the lawyers and sit down with some of the people so you know, we've got some questions we'd like to ask Leanne and Joseph and some other people but they might have some stuff they want to ask us too.

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: So you can tell the family um any questions they've got for the coronial investigation, we're happy to listen to those questions.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MORGAN: We just, just need to get to the point where we can talk to them.

WILLIAMS: Yeah and, like um also um when the other guys came them Martin DOLE

MORGAN: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: And Assistant Commissioner and there was another question raised that, you know, because of that small um yeah, he had a paper and ran away form CAAPU and people was just um

comparing about the, but you know, shooting in Darwin, um that Hoffman bloke shot 4...

MORGAN: Yeah yes.

WILLIAMS: And they were comparing that. He shot 4 and he was arrested good, in a good way you know and Kumanjayi had paper

MORGAN: Yep.

WILLIAMS: And they, they, they were shot him and they just want to get their head around that too so.

MORGAN: No, I understand that, I understand how that would be very confusing for them.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MORGAN: Very hard to understand.

WILLIAMS: And its like brought everybody, the community down because this wasn't, this, this is unheard of in, in Aboriginal community.

MORGAN: Yeah.

WILLIAMS: This is first time and people were all shocked.

MORGAN: And, and we're happy for anybody that wants to talk to us to come and tell their story and talk to us but unfortunately right now the um, the lawyers are saying that we can't talk to anyone.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MORGAN: So hopefully we get that chance because I think it'd be good for people and it'd be good for us to hear their stories too.

WILLIAMS: Yeah.

MORGAN: And it'd be good for the Coroner to hear those stories so hopefully we'll get to that. Um is there anything else you want to add?

WILLIAMS: Na, that's all.

MORGAN: Detective DUNCAN?

DUNCAN: No, nothing.

MORGAN: Okay. Um, Derek, has everything you told me been the truth today?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

MORGAN: And you understand that it's um against the law to, to not tell the truth in a statement?

WILLIAMS: Yep.

MORGAN: I, Detective Senior Sergeant Lee MORGAN who has obtained the age of 18 years of age of Police Headquarters at the NAB Building on Smith Street in Darwin have witnessed recording of this declaration in full. My contact number is [REDACTED] This statement is being declared at the first floor of the Alice Springs Police Station, Parsons Street, Alice Springs on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2020. The time is now 2.12pm and this conversation is concluded.