

MR STRICKLAND: I call Derek Williams.

DEREK WILLIAMS, sworn:

XN BY MR STRICKLAND:

HIS HONOUR: Could you please remove your mask while you're giving evidence, thank you.

Yes.

MR STRICKLAND: Mr Williams, could I ask you to speak loudly so everyone can hear you, please?---Yeah.

If I or Mr Edwardson asks you a question, you don't understand, please say so. If you want me to repeat a question, please say so?---Yeah.

What is your full name?---Derek Williams.

Can you speak up please, sir?---Derek Williams.

Thank you very much. Are you a Senior Aboriginal Community Police Officer?---Yes.

When did you start being a – can I call it ACPO?---Yeah.

When did you start being an ACPO?---Since 2006.

And what does an ACPO do?---It's sort of a liaison between the police and the community.

How do you do that job? How do you liaise between the police and the community?---Just – I just go around. If there's any incident, I just help out with language and other stuff.

And where have you performed that role as Senior ACPO?---What's that?

Where have you been – you been to Yuendumu?---Yeah, I – when I started I went to Papunya first and Alice Springs and then Yuendumu.

What was the first one you mentioned?---Papunya.

Papunya?---Yeah.

And how long were you in Yuendumu for?---As an ACPO or - - -

As an ACPO?---Yeah, probably about 10, 11 years.

So were you ACPO at Yuendumu in 2019, a couple of years ago?---Yep.

Now do you know Kumanjayi Walker?---Yes.

Is he family – part of your family?---Yeah, my nephew.

Can you explain the – how he's related to you?---Oh he's my – my grandfather, who's a Walker, he had two wives, and one of them being my grandmother, and one of them being this – my nephew's great-grandmother.

Did you know Kumanjayi when he was a little boy?---Yeah.

And you've known him since he's passed?---Yeah.

What was he like?---Quite shy young fellow. Never talks much.

Do you know Kumanjayi's mother?---Yeah.

And when she was pregnant, did she sniff petrol?---Yeah. Before she was pregnant, yeah she sniffed petrol.

Was – in your opinion, was Kumanjayi a bit slow?---Yeah.

And now his mother is not Leanne Oldfield, is that right?---No.

That – his mother – but Leanne Oldfield looked after him - - - ?---Yeah.

- - - like a mother?---Yeah she's adopted mother.

Have you arrested Kumanjaya Walker?---Yep.

Before?---Yep.

And did he try and run away?---No.

What was he like when you arrested him?---Happy, but I when – when I said I was going to arrest him, he said, "I'll jump on with you because you're my family", and yeah, off we went to the station.

And where did you put him?---In the front seat.

Of your police car?---Yep.

And when – when did you arrest him?---Oh - - -

How many years ago?---2018, yeah.

How many times did you arrest him?---2018 and 19 probably four times.

Now did you see a body-worn video of an incident where he was waving – when Kumanjaya was waving an axe at police?---Yeah.

That was Chris Hand and Lanyon Smith?---Yeah.

Were you surprised when you saw that?---Yeah, it was – yeah.

Why were you surprised?---It wasn't like him, like when I dealt with him he was quiet young fellow and never veered away from being arrested and he – well he also call me uncle, so there was no issues with him. And me and him.

Now after that axe incident, was there a funeral at Yuendumu?---Yeah.

Who's funeral was that?---My uncle, so that was Kumanjaya's grandfathers.

And did you go to the funeral?---Yeah.

Where was it?---At the basketball court.

And did you see Kumanjaya Walker there?---Yeah.

Is it important to go to funerals?---Yeah.

Why is that?---Everybody goes to funeral as the family members and just to pay their respect.

Now did you – after the axe incident, did you and Julie Frost go and see Eddie and Lottie Robertson?---Yeah.

All right, and why did you go there?---We just went there to ask what – or tell them – tell Kumanjayi to hand himself in after the funeral.

Can you – I'll get you to speak up a bit please?---Yeah, we just there and tell the family's to hand himself in after the funeral.

Did you see Kumanjayi Walker after the axe incident?---Yeah, after - - -

At the funeral?---At the funeral, yeah.

Did you speak to him there?---No.

Now when you saw Lottie and Eddie Robertson, where was that?---West – West (inaudible).

Is that at Lottie and Eddie's house?---Yeah 577, I think.

577?---Yep.

Did you have a discussion about when Kumanjayi should surrender himself?---Yeah, just maybe after the funeral.

And when was the funeral first going to take place?---Friday, but - - -

And did the – did the date of that funeral – or the day of that funeral change?---Yeah.

To what day?---Saturday.

So on your understanding, when was Kumanjayi meant to surrender himself?---After the funeral. Not straight after, probably like next day.

Next day?---Yeah.

Now were you on duty on 9 November?---No.

That's a Saturday?---Yeah.

That's because you were at the funeral?---Yeah.

And did you hear later that day, that there'd been a shooting, involving Kumanjayi ?---Yeah.

And what did you do after you heard that?---We was at the grave side, and a young fellow came rushing down and told us that Kumanjayi was shot, so.

Told you what, sorry?---That Kumanjayi was shot.

What did you do?---I jumped in with my father and we drove down to the – the crime scene, yeah.

Was it House 511?---Yep.

Did you go inside?---Yeah.

Did you touch anything?---No.

Did you then go back to the police station?---Yeah.

And you saw Kumanjayi there?---Yeah.

And you saw the police there?---Yep.

Did you then go outside to the front of the police station?---Yeah.

Why did you do that?---Just to calm everybody down because people was yelling and screaming and wanted to throw rocks at the station, and yeah, I just calmed everybody down.

You calmed people down?---Yeah.

Can I just go back to, when you were at House 511, just before the police station?---Yeah.

You went inside?---Yeah, had a – opened the door and just had a peek inside.

You then left House 511?---Yep.

Did you lock the door?---Yeah.

They're my questions, your Honour.

MR EDWARDSON: I have no questions of this witness, thank you, your Honour.

HIS HONOUR: Yes, thank you, you may go.

WITNESS WITHDREW