



NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE
STATUTORY DECLARATION



PROMIS No.:	IJIS Case:	Date:
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STATEMENT OF:					
Name of Witness:	Craig Garland				
Date of birth:	[REDACTED]	Place of birth:	Sydney	Age:	56
Occupation:	Police Officer				
Home address:					
	Phone:		Mobile:	[REDACTED]	Fax:
	Email:				
Postal address:					
Work address:					
	Phone:		Mobile:		Fax:
	Email:				
Subject of statement:					

POLICE OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT:					
Name of Police officer:		Rank:		Reg. No.:	
Station:		Phone:			

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:

DATES UNAVAILABLE:

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

OATHS, AFFIDAVITS AND DECLARATIONS ACT

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, Craig Garland, of an address known to police, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I currently hold the rank of Superintendent within the Northern Territory Police Force. I am the Divisional Superintendent of the Territory Support Division which includes the Territory Response Group (TRG) based in Darwin.
2. I provide this statement in response to Mr Rolfe's evidence during the Inquest into the death of Kumanjayi Walker on 26 February 2024 in relation to TRG's annual party.
3. I joined the Northern Territory Police Force (NTPF) in September of 1994 and served in a number of police stations including Darwin General Duties and Nhulunbuy Police Station before commencing my career in the TRG. I have served in the TRG on 3 separate occasions: May 2001 to August 2006 as an operator; May 2011 to October 2016 as a Sergeant and Acting Officer in Charge; and December 2022 to the present as the Divisional Officer.
4. Unlike other tactical units across Australia, the TRG has many roles. These include High Risk Response, Close Personal Protection, Bomb Response, Search and Rescue, Civil unrest in remote communities, to name just a few. Each of these roles requires a variety of skills that are taught to members during their first few months within the unit.
5. During the entirety of my service in TRG I never experienced any racism in fact it was the exact opposite. All of the operators that I served with had considerable remote policing experience and understood and embraced local culture to resolve situations with the minimum of force.
6. At the end of each year, the TRG Social Club would organise a Christmas party which was for members only and would recognise the jobs that we had been involved in and our successes and failures during that year. Due to the operational sensitivity relating to the classified nature of the jobs we were involved in, (secret, protected), no-one external to the unit was invited to prevent sensitive facts about operations from being released to the public. The parties were good-natured and were utilised to ensure that members were reminded of the need to remain humble.

7. I am not sure when but at some point in my time within the TRG an idea about dressing up for the party came about and there have been various themes over my time in TRG. Some of those include, tennis players, Marvel characters, Roman togas, and Fat Bastard from the Austin Powers movie. Fancy dress also served to reinforce not taking yourself too seriously and added to the light-hearted nature of the occasion. Officers are exposed to the most significant of trauma and being able to make fun of our shortcomings has served as a pressure relief valve allowing for normality in some parts of our lives.
8. I attended most of these parties during my service within the TRG with a few exceptions when on leave or deployed on operations.
9. There was a tradition of giving out awards at the end of year party. This tradition started prior to my time at the TRG and has evolved over the years as more interesting and innovative ways of making mistakes are discovered by members. The purpose of these awards was to recognise that we are all fallible and the best of us can make mistakes. It is also to recognise that we have had some near misses that could have resulted in death or serious harm in the course of operational and training incidents. But the greatest lesson from these awards is to accept your mistakes, own them, learn from them and ensure that they do not happen again.
10. On 26 February 2024, I was watching the Inquest live stream and I heard Mr Rolfe's comment that the TRG would give out a 'Coon of the Year Award" for exhibiting the most "coon-like behaviour of the year" and was given a wooden club with nails.
11. This award simply does not exist in the TRG and the use of that word would not be tolerated.
12. A number of awards are presented. One of them was named the Nugada award. This is a made-up word. It is awarded to the person who has displayed outstanding lack of excellence in the area of personal hygiene or feral behaviour. The award presented is an improvised weapon that was seized during riots in Port Keats. It is the branch of a kapok tree that resembles a medieval club or a prehistoric man club. The weapon was retained by the TRG to show new members to the unit the types of weapons that can be used during civil unrest and how the simplest things can cause significant damage to operators.
13. Over the years there has been light hearted banter between detectives and operators that identifies operators as Neanderthals or knuckle-draggers. This was the catalyst for the award. The TRG office has been known as the cave since I joined and this was the link to the club. This award was never linked to Indigenous people. It was about the performance or lack of

performance by operators serving within the TRG. It has been awarded for a number of reasons but they include: not showering for five days on a search operation and then getting in a car to return to the office with their teammates; forgetting to remove eggs from a vehicle after an operation and having them go off in a vehicle over a weekend; and leaving a stool sample in a sealed container in the fridge with members' lunches.

14. Sometime between my first period in the TRG and my last time there the name of the award was changed to the Voldemort Award. I am not sure why the name was changed as I was not part of the discussion about it.
15. About three years ago the OIC of the TRG recognised that we were only celebrating our mistakes and not building on our successes. To ensure that there was balance and perspective in these awards, a new award and trophy was developed to recognise the best operator within the TRG. It is an award that is voted on by peers and recognises the operator who represents the ethos of the TRG: Honour, Integrity, Sacrifice, and Selflessness. It has become a badge of honour for those who have won it.
16. When reflecting on the testimony of Mr Rolfe, I asked myself the question whether I thought that TRG members are racist. I can unequivocally say absolutely not. In the past 12 months I have recognised my members with formal letters of recognition for actions taken by them during operations. See attachments at annex A.
17. During Search and rescue Missions conducted within the Northern Territory it was identified by SARMAC's attached to TRG that the actions of first nations people in searches was dramatically different to this represented in the NATSAR manual. These lost person behaviour profiles the actions most likely and informs the SARMAC on best allocation of resources to successfully locate and save the lost person. To ensure that TRG best changes of locating first nations people when lost. A first nations people lost person behaviour was developed through case studies to better understand the behaviours displayed. This case studies and interactions with lost persons after searches was the foundation for a lost person behaviour profile for first nations people that was recently presented to the NATSAR annual conference. These are just some examples of operations conducted by the officers of the TRG and they are not the actions of persons who are racist.

Annex A



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S LETTER OF RECOGNITION

*C/- Territory Response Group
Peter McAulay Centre
KNUCKEY LAGOON NT 0828*

Dear Sergeant

I write to formally acknowledge your actions in the recovery of a deceased member of Minyerri Community.

On 27 February 2023, you were deployed to Minyerri Community to effect the recovery of a deceased person in flooded bushland. After arriving in the community and receiving a briefing from local residents you commenced an arduous journey to recover the decedent.

In company with local community members who chose to accompany your team to the decedent's location you managed to navigate the fast flowing water, including the requirement to swim through deep sections of floodwater. The floodways were likely to be inhabited by saltwater crocodiles. Despite the risk to your own safety you undertook efforts to ensure the safety of those community members accompanying you.

You took decisive action to ensure a landing area was cleared in order for a nearby helicopter to land and successfully recover the decedent with dignity and compassion.

Your leadership and composure in time critical circumstances are a testament to your training and dedication to duty. You sacrificed your own personal safety to ensure the decedent was recovered and those in your care were not harmed. Your actions of placing service above self has enhanced the reputation of the Northern Territory Police Force and I thank you for your commitment to our community.



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S LETTER OF RECOGNITION

*Territory Response Group
Northern Territory Police Force*

Dear

I write to formally acknowledge your actions in providing medical treatment to a gunshot victim Peppimenarti resident.

On Thursday 26 January 2023 at approximately 1 am you were deployed to a High-Risk shooting in Peppimenarti. After securing the airfield you were tasked with providing emergency medical care to a 17 year old youth who had been shot in the shoulder. Care flight staff refused to attend due to the nature of the incident and you were requested to provide emergency medical evacuation of the patient via Police Air Wing.

The male's injuries were so severe that both scapulars were damaged with the projectile travelling through the shoulder and across the back causing a temporary cavity. The projectile damaged the ribs, vertebrae and caused trauma to the lungs and plural cavity.

You conducting a comprehensive medical assessment of the situation, and highlighted the considerable dangers when transporting a patient with significant injuries on an aircraft not designed for advanced life support. With the assistance of the Care Flight Doctors you developed and executed a successful plan that provided critical care to a severely injured patient.

Your composure and measured approach under significant pressure are a testament to your training and dedication to duty. Your actions placing service above self has enhanced the reputation of the Northern Territory Police Force and I thank you for your commitment to the mission and vision of the Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services.

18. Whilst I am extremely disappointed at the comments made by Mr Rolfe, I continue to be a very proud member of the TRG, working with a highly professional group of police officers who continue to serve and protect our entire community with distinction. This is yet another challenge which we as a team will accept, understand and resolve as professionals.

and I further declare that:

(a) (i) I have attained the age of 18 years;

AND

(b) (i) I have read this statement before signing it;

and I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the OATHS, AFFIDAVITS AND DECLARATIONS ACT, conscientiously believing the statements contained in this declaration to be true. I acknowledge that a person who wilfully makes a false statement in any material particular is guilty of a crime and liable to imprisonment for 3 years, (*section 119 Criminal Code*). Furthermore, a person who does anything to a Statutory Declaration that results in it becoming false or misleading, is liable to a penalty of a fine or imprisonment, or both (*section 27 Oaths, Affidavits and Declarations Act*).

Maximum penalty: 400 penalty units or imprisonment for 4 years.

DECLARED AT DARWIN THIS 28TH DAY OF FEB, 2024



Craig Garland

BEFORE ME

NAME



DAVID MOORE

TELEPHONE



COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS (NT)

A | COMMANDER ORGANISED CRIME, INTELLIGENCE & (ASST)
0560 1915