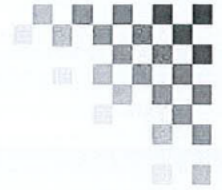




# NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE

## STATUTORY DECLARATION



PROMIS No.:	IJIS Case:	Date: 26/07/2022
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<b>STATEMENT OF:</b>					
Name of Witness:	Bradley James WALLACE				
Date of birth:		Place of birth:	Redcliffe QLD	Age:	45
Occupation:	Police Officer				
Home address:	Known to Police				
	Phone:	08:	Mobile:	Fax:	
	Email:				
Postal address:	Known to Police				
Work address:	Known to Police				
	Phone:	0:	Mobile:	Fax:	
	Email:				
Subject of statement:	Cultural Training Northern Territory Police				

<b>POLICE OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT:</b>					
Name of Police officer:	Jason WILSON	Rank:	Const	Reg. No.:	30227
Station:	Alice Springs	Phone:	08:		

<b>SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE:</b>
WALLACE Work history – College Cultural training. WALKER Coronial

<b>DATES UNAVAILABLE:</b>
10 September 2022-02 October 2022 (gazette leave)

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

OATHS, AFFIDAVITS AND DECLARATIONS ACT

**STATUTORY DECLARATION**

I, Bradley James WALLACE, of an address known to police, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I am a Constable of the Northern Territory Police, attached to Strike Force Viper in Alice Springs, My registered NT Police number is 30154.
2. I am an initiated Arrernte man from Mperntwe (Alice Springs), my homelands are about 80 kilometres East of Alice Springs. I come from a traditional Arrernte family on my mother's side, my father is a non-Indigenous Australian. I have lived the bulk of my life in the Northern Territory, as a youth I travelled and lived with my mother and father through the Central Desert region, the Top End of the Northern Territory and Arnhem Land. I have participated in Ceremony in both the Central Desert area and Arnhem Land, and have cultural and familial ties throughout the Northern Territory.
3. I have completed a Master Degree in Indigenous Knowledge's (Cross Cultural Mediation) through Charles Darwin University in the Northern Territory in 2015.
4. I joined the Australian Federal Police (AFP) in 1998, I worked across a variety of positions and locations including;
  - Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap
  - Sydney
  - Melbourne
  - International Deployment Group (Solomon Islands and Nauru)
  - Alice Springs Aviation team (OIC)
  - Darwin AFP Aviation Team.
  - AFP Crime Operations NT
  - Joint Organised Crime Taskforce (JOCTF) NT.
  - Child Abuse Taskforce (CAT) AFP NT.
  - National Anti-Gang squad (NAGS) NT.
  - Family Investigations Liaison Officer (FILO)
  - Other temporary postings as required.
5. In 2009 I took a 12 month leave without pay period from the AFP, during this period I worked for Central Desert Shire as the Regional manager for the Community Safety

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and Night Patrol portfolio. I was responsible for the setup and administration of the patrols across the Central Desert region which included the following communities.

- Attitjere (Harts Range)
  - Ti Tree and Surrounding communities.
  - Willowra.
  - Wilora.
  - Laramba.
  - Yuelemu.
  - Yuendumu.
  - Nyirripi.
  - Lajamanu.
6. As part of this role, I drew upon my cultural and policing experience, to establish, staff and maintain patrol teams across the region. This included the establishment of Memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreements with the Northern Territory Police, Community patrollers and the Central Desert Shire. This included the establishment of community safety meetings in each location, the funding of vehicles and offices on site and regular community visits.
  7. I returned to the AFP in October 2010, working in Alice Springs, before transferring to Darwin in December 2011.
  8. I was sworn into the Northern Territory Police in 2012 as a special constable to enable me to utilise Northern Territory Police powers, process and IT Systems until I resigned from the AFP in July 2020. In this role I travelled and worked in the regional centres and remote areas of the Northern Territory regularly to conduct Investigations and liaise with local communities about Crime, issues effecting communities and strategies to improve remote Community and Police relationships. I worked in conjunction with members of the Northern Territory Police in this role.
  9. I resigned from the AFP in July 2020 and joined the Northern Territory Police as a full time Constable in the same month. I completed my transition training in October 2020 in Darwin then was deployed to Alice Springs station as my initial Posting, I currently live and work in Alice Springs holding the rank of Senior Constable. Since commencement with Northern Territory Police, I have undertaken roles in General Duties, Community Resilience and Engagement Command (CREC) and am currently attached to Strike Force Viper in Alice Springs. I have performed relief duties in many remote Communities.
  10. I worked with CREC during the period of the Rolfe trial conducting engagement with the Walpiri community both in Alice Springs and Yuendumu, during this period, I organised and attended a visit to Alice Springs correctional facility, to engage with both Walpiri and other tribal prisoners in relation to the trial process, I was accompanied on this occasion by Aboriginal Liaison Officer Brian Stirling, Superintendent Antony

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Deutrom and a group of Walpiri elders. We attended each cell block at the correctional facility and provided a platform for prisoners to speak with Elders about the community and Walker family direction and attitude to the trial, and also for the prisoners to engage with Police about the trial process to alleviate rumours and innuendo. We were well received and able engage in an open platform whilst maintaining professionalism and not speaking directly about the facts of the matter before the Court.

11. Whilst completing my training with the Northern Territory Police in June 2020, I had a conversation with College staff about the provision of culturally appropriate training for members commencing their careers with NT Police, transitioning from other Policing organisations and current serving members of the Northern Territory Police. College staff member Sgt Owen BLACKWELL advised at the time, that the Police College was attempting to find someone to deliver a session that would better prepare and educate members to work with Aboriginal people in both regional and remote areas of the Northern Territory. I advised Sgt BLACKWELL, that I had a background in cultural studies and would be able to provide this service if approved. College staff approved me to conduct sessions with my Advanced Recruit squad, a general entry recruit squad and an Auxiliary Police squad whilst I was completing my recruit training to transition to NT Police from the AFP.
12. The initial training was prepared and presented by myself to these squads and included the following subject matter;
  - What is an Aboriginal – what defines a person as being Aboriginal?
  - Different types of Aboriginal people,
    - Urban.
    - Remote.
    - Cultural Understanding and participation levels.
    - Language speakers.
    - Active participants in ceremony, cultural process and spirituality.
  - Kinship and familial relationships
  - Languages.
  - Tribal Links.
  - Spirituality.
  - Religion.
  - Ceremony.
  - Payback (Peacemaking) – Differences and cultural appropriate punishment.
  - Violence on Communities and different types of violence.
  - Social Problems.
  - Economic situation.
  - Royalties.
  - Policing remotely;

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- Creating networks.
  - Cultural brokerage.
  - Human treatment / Human rights.
  - People – choices of lifestyle and living conditions.
  - The effects (Positive and negative) of living in a communal / collective society, how this differentiates from contemporary western living and decision making processes.
13. I was initially given an 8 hour time block to conduct the training with my own recruit squad, Squad 137. This enabled me to cover all aspects in some depth and engage in educative discussion about the listed topics. With the other mainstream recruit and auxiliary squads I was given between 2 and 4 hours which I would not deem to be enough time to cover the session in depth, but enough to give an overview and basic understanding of topics and conceptual adaptation in the workplace. I have since returned to the Police college to present, however time limitations have meant that I have had limited opportunity to present in depth to the squads but have been able to provide an overview and engage in some discussion around the topics.
14. I have provided this training on 7 separate occasions at the NT Police college, I have delivered to several different streams of Policing including; advanced recruit squads, mainstream recruit squads and Auxiliary squads. Each time I have been allocated different time periods to present, which has required me to be adaptive and tailor each presentation for the allowed timeframe and audience. Best practice would determine that each presentation should be completed to a suitable standard and the presenter given appropriate time to ensure all aspects are covered and time is available for effective discussion and learning opportunities.
15. My recommendation is that a NT Police internal Indigenous cultural training program is established and staffed with appropriate Police and Aboriginal Liaison Officer Members. A set program is established and approved and appropriate times are allocated for the provision of the training to every new recruit squad at the college and retro training provided to current serving NT Police members who undertake training courses who have not received set standard training (ie; Detective training programs, Executive training programs). An Aboriginal appropriate trainer is college based to provide this training during periods of the courses and available to recruits and members as cultural mentors.
16. Cultural based training, is imperative to all staff undertaking duties within the Central Desert and wider Northern Territory. The Northern Territory Police recruit from a wide base including Australia and overseas with most recruits and some current staff having little to no understanding of the cultural nuances that impact on behaviours, living arrangements, decision making, spiritual structure, ceremonial life and day to day engagement between to Police and the Aboriginal Community.

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17. Aboriginal people comprise the high majority of offenders in the Central desert region. Considering this fact, and the high incidence of interactions between Police and Aboriginal offenders, a base level of cultural knowledge and understanding would have an impact on the standard of interaction and service provision to the Community. The standard of interaction with Aboriginal victims of crime and offenders could be higher, if cultural based training was adapted and members were able to implement culturally appropriate based process as part of the role in engagement and enforcement. A solid knowledge base can have a high impact on the initial job attendance, obtaining statements and evidence, prosecution outcome and the level of force utilised and minimised.
18. A solid understanding of issues effecting the Central Australian Aboriginal population, could and would impact the incidence of detrimental interactions between Police and the community and provide a platform of engagement in any general Policing role that would lead to a higher level of positive interaction, improve community response to Policing, improve the cooperation level of victims and witnesses and increase community understanding and support for the role of Police in wider society.
19. Northern Territory Police have a unique opportunity to develop and foster industry leading initiatives to promote Police and Community relations, identify and prosecute crime, gather intelligence, provide victim support and advocacy and lessen the incidence of violent confrontation with offenders. Some initiatives may include but not the limited to;
  - Establishment of effective and governance driven Human Source Management programs which include an Aboriginal Police element.
  - Aboriginal language speakers and culturally appropriate Police members imbedded in Intelligence teams across the Northern Territory.
  - Aboriginal Police Officers embedded in Community Policing patrol groups and crime teams, working collaboratively with members to provide guidance, assistance and identification of offenders and provide victim liaison.
20. The establishment of a Family Investigations Liaison Officer (FILO) unit within the Northern Territory Police could address many of the cultural issues when dealing with serious crime in regional and remote areas. I conducted these duties whilst a member of the Australian Federal Police, the FILO role provided the following functions but is not limited to;
  - Establishing links with the community, tribal and family groups after significant events.
  - Providing a link between the Police investigating offences and the victims and or community, allowing the investigations team to focus on their role.

- Be a Police Constable based role so the FILO providing the service understands the investigations process and is able to assist by obtaining statements from family (Identity and exclusion statements) and witnesses.
  - Obtain secondary DNA samples from family members for identification purposes.
  - Provide effective and appropriate victim support and notification throughout the Court and or prosecution process.
21. The FILO role is a support role to major investigations conducted by the AFP on both an International and National level and could be adapted and implemented to compliment major incidents and crime investigations within the Northern Territory.
22. The Northern Territory Police currently have a very active recruitment strategy for Indigenous Australians to join the organisation. However most are employed as either Aboriginal Liaison Officers or Aboriginal Community Police officers, with a small percentage then progressing to the Constable Stream of Policing. Many of these persons employed come from interstate, and whilst they are Aboriginal, their knowledge, language and cultural understanding may be limited to their own tribal group and not applicable in the regions they are deployed. Targeted recruitment, advancement and retention of local Aboriginal Police would be preferable in the circumstance, however, active support to assist them to deal with the unique stresses that Policing your own tribe and community would be required if this was to be a successful endeavour.
23. There are few initiated, language speaking Aboriginal Police officers percentage wise within the Northern Territory Police. Attraction, recruitment and retention should and could be a priority for the organisation, given the skills, cultural knowledge and impact these members can have in their own tribal and cultural space. A policing service should reflect the community they are policing, in both percentage of numbers and ethnicity and culture, in this respect as an organisation we are yet to fulfil and maintain this reflection. The ability of Aboriginal Police to engage appropriately, liaise with victims and offenders in a culturally appropriate manner and provide on the job mentoring and education for non-indigenous members is both highly valued and could have a real impact to improve working practices and Community and Police relationships.
24. Culturally based training and recruitment and retention of Aboriginal Police officers combined, would provide the best instance of education to members and on the job cultural mentoring to Police recruits and current serving members of Northern Territory Police. As an initiated Aboriginal Police officer I am part of a small minority that should be increased to improve working practices and engagement across the organisation.
25. At present the cultural training provided is limited and in my opinion lacking support to provide staff commencing duty in the desert region with the knowledge required to appropriately understand and improve the provision of Police service to the community.

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The dedication of more time, an Internal Northern Territory Police cultural training team, tailored to reflect the environment and cultures we work with, greater support for cultural Police officers and focus on retention would greatly improve interactions and lessen the risk to both members if the Public and Police Officers in the execution of Police Powers and enforcement.

26. Training could be further be expanded and complimented with the introduction of community specific packages for all remote communities within the greater Northern Territory. This would better prepare members being posted to remote communities with a base level of cultural and location specific knowledge which could include but not be limited to;

- Tribe and language / languages spoken the area and region.
- Location specific cultural practices.
- An understanding of local ceremony and community impact.
- Local leadership, who the people are, how they are designated leaders and an understanding of the benefits and assistance Police can obtain.
- Family and kinship leaders in the community.
- Cultural specific sites in and around the community, limitations in these areas and access.
- The structure of leadership within the community.
- Other culturally and geographically appropriate content as required for individual communities.

27. I had no further immediate dealings with this matter.

I will be available to give evidence in Alice Springs when required. I will be unavailable for 10 September to 02 October 2022. I understand that the contents of this statement may be disclosed for defence purposes.

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 ALICE SPRINGS THIS 26 DAY OF JULY 2022

Br

BEFORE ME

NAME

TELEPHONE

Jason WILSON

COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS (NT)