



NORTHERN TERRITORY POLICE

STATUTORY DECLARATION



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| PROMIS No.: | IJIS Case: | Date: |
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|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------|------|
| STATEMENT OF: | | | | | |
| Name of Witness: | Shaun Clifford Gill | | | | |
| Date of birth: | [REDACTED] | Place of birth: | Brisbane, Qld | Age: | 56 |
| Occupation: | Police Officer | | | | |
| Home address: | C/- NT Police | | | | |
| | Phone: | [REDACTED] | Mobile: | | Fax: |
| | Email: | | | | |
| Postal address: | | | | | |
| Work address: | C/- NT Police | | | | |
| | Phone: | [REDACTED] | Mobile: | | Fax: |
| | Email: | | | | |
| Subject of statement: | GILL Statement - Kumunjayi Walker - Coronial investigation 28 Feb 2024 | | | | |

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|-----------------------------------------|---------------|--------|------------|-----------|------|
| POLICE OFFICER TAKING STATEMENT: | | | | | |
| Name of Police officer: | David Overall | Rank: | A/S/Sgt | Reg. No.: | 2364 |
| Station: | Darwin | Phone: | [REDACTED] | | |

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| SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE: |
| A/Commander Gill - evidence update - response to allegations made by Zac Rolfe |

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|---------------------------|
| DATES UNAVAILABLE: |
| Nil |

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

OATHS, AFFIDAVITS AND DECLARATIONS ACT


STATUTORY DECLARATION

I, Shaun Clifford Gill, of an address known to police, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. My full name is Shaun Clifford Gill of all the particulars above.
2. By way of background, I have been in the Northern Territory on and off since I was a three year old. My father was a serving Police Officer from 1970 to 1978. He served in remote communities during this time including Nhulunbuy, Maranboy Police Station and Katherine Police Station. As a result, my earliest schooling and life experiences were growing up in remote Indigenous communities with my first year of schooling being at Barunga (formerly Bamily) Primary School where I was the only non-Indigenous child in the school. I later completed my schooling in Katherine.
3. I commenced service in the Northern Territory Police (NT Police) in September 1988 and I am still a current serving Police Officer in the NT Police. I have served in the Territory Response Group (TRG), General Duties in Darwin and Alice Springs, Alyangula Police Station (2001 -2003) and Yulara Police Station (2008 -2011). Serving in Alyangula and Yulara Police Stations in particular, gave me some unique insights and experiences in policing at remote Indigenous communities. For me, it highlighted how different it is for police officers to work in remote communities with engagement in the communities being the highest priority.
4. I commenced my career in the TRG in 1991 and have the opportunity to serve at all ranks within the TRG. Specifically my service within the TRG is as follows:
 - 4.1 1991 - 2001 –Constable
 - 4.2 2003 - 2008 – Sergeant
 - 4.3 2011 - 2017 – Senior Sergeant, Officer in Charge (OIC) of TRG
 - 4.4 2018 - 2022 – Superintendent, Territory Support Division, encompassing TRG, Water Police, Dog Operations and the like.

This  statutory declaration of Shaun Clifford Gill.

Declarant


Commissioner for Oaths (NT)

5. During my time in the TRG the section has been deployed to most remote Indigenous communities throughout the Northern Territory at some time. These roles have varied from assisting in coordinating search and rescue operations through to deploying at high risk, to large scale violent community riots. It is important to note that during all of this time I am unaware of any complaints or accusations against the TRG in acting in a racist manner in any way.
6. While serving as the OIC of the TRG and later as the Divisional Superintendent, I was always keen to get the TRG to deploy to remote Indigenous communities as much as possible. My reasoning for this was that I wanted all TRG members not only to gain experience in serving in remote communities but I wanted them to develop a sense that the response methodologies and procedures of the TRG when deploying to remote Indigenous communities are different to deploying in urban areas such as Darwin.
7. Throughout my years of service within the TRG there has always been an in-house joke that the members of TRG have been considered Neanderthal caveman-type people who can lift heavy things but who don't do too much thinking. Equally, the work of the TRG is often demanding and at times life-threatening to members. As a result and as long as I can remember in order to deal with these situations, members of the TRG designed a number of awards to be delivered every year at a Christmas party with the main intent of creating a way of relieving stress and poking light-hearted fun at TRG and members of the section.
8. The majority of these awards originated before formal welfare services started and also served as a way to be an informal and light-hearted debrief. Specifically, the awards I can remember are:
 - 8.1 The "Noogooda Award" - this award was given to the person who essentially made the biggest mistake of the year and was designed to highlight the caveman ethos - highlighting an "outstanding lack of excellence" and poke fun at the member with their name inscribed on a plaque which was placed onto a club wooden club about 1 metre long and provided to the winning member. I am unsure of the origin of the word "Noogooda". I remember it was explained to me a few years ago that it was an extension of the "Nugget Award"; however, I thought the word was more of a made-up caveman type of word to reflect the Neanderthal theme and I can't be sure of the origin.
 - 8.2 The "Sooty Award"- I believe this award was also provided to someone who also made a mistake. I cannot remember what this award physically

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looked like, but I assume it was an award in appearance. I am aware of the origin of the name as I was present when the following happened. A TRG member was using an exhaust pump inflatable car jack on a vehicle which exploded all over the member's body covering him in vehicle exhaust soot. The member earned the nickname "sooty" after that incident and the award has been going since that time.

- 8.3 The "Ayrton Award" – this award is given to a member who made the biggest mistake in a car and was presented, from memory, in the form of a plaque. This could be getting bogged at an inopportune time or driving to the location or similar. This award was named after Ayrton Senna who was, at the time, the best Formula 1 race car driver in the world.
- 8.4 The "Operator of the Year Award" – this is a recently introduced and serious award voted on by the members of the TRG for the person who is considered the best Tactical Operator of the year and represents the values of the TRG the best. I believe this is also a plaque.

9. I am aware that there has been an allegation the TRG issued a "Coon of the year Award" or similar. This is simply not the case. At no time was I aware of such an award and if I was made aware I would have stopped it.
10. I am also aware of the allegation that TRG regularly used the word "coon" and "sand nigger". I have not heard such language used by members of the TRG in any circumstance.
11. In about 2022, the "Noogooda Award" was renamed to be the "Voldemort Award", based on a Harry Potter character, as the TRG did not want the award to be misconstrued or associated with any racial issues.
12. In my opinion the TRG is a very professional section. It operates in extreme circumstances that serve the community of the Northern Territory to a very high standard, and has done for a very long time. I accept wholeheartedly that the TRG is subject to public scrutiny of its actions. During my service in the TRG I am not aware of any awards with Indigenous connotations. If at any point someone has taken offence to the use of the word "Noogooda" I apologise for any offence that may have been taken.

This is page 3 of the statutory declaration of Shaun Clifford Gill.

Declar

Commissioner for Oaths (NT)

I will be available to give evidence in Alice Springs when required. I will be unavailable for . 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;
- (iii) I have not attained the age of 18 years but have attained the age of 56;


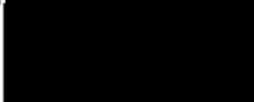
AND

- (b) (i) I have read this statement before signing it;
- (ii) I have had this statement read to me before signing it.
The statement was read to me because of the following reason/disability:

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 FEBRUARY, 2024


 7660

 Shaun Clifford Gill

BEFORE ME



 David Overall

NAME



TELEPHONE



COMMISSIONER FOR OATHS (NT)