

QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

STATEMENT OF WITNESS



QP #125 03:06

Occurrence #: <u>QP1200378191</u> Statement no.: <u>1</u> Date: <u>26/04/2012</u>
Statement of Name of witness: BROOM, Phillip Geoffrey Occupation: Real Estate Agent
Name of witness: BROOM, Thimp Countries: Real Estate Agent
Name of witness: BROOM, PHIIID Geometry Date of birth: 09/04/1976 Age: 36 Occupation: Real Estate Agent
Police officer taking statement
Name: STEWARD, Belinda Claire Reg. no.: 26106
Constable
Rank: Plain Clothes Constable Region/Command/Division: Brisbane West District Station: Indooroopilly CIB
Region/Command/Division. Division.
Statement:

Phillip Geoffrey BROOM states:

- I am a 36 year old male and I reside at
- In 2005, I moved to Brisbane from Sydney where I had been living with my
 wife Michelle. I did a couple of job interviews as I wished to start working
 as a Real Estate agent in Brisbane.
- Sometime in July 2005 I attended the Century 21 at Moggill Road at Kenmore. At the interview I met Elaine, Nigel, Allison and Gerard. Elaine and Nigel are the parents of Gerard. Most of the interview was spent with Gerard BADEN-CLAY.
- 4. About two days after the interview I received a phone call from Gerard. He informed me that he had almost decided straight away that he wanted me to work there. The real estate business is a funny industry as often it is more about the person attending the interview asking questions of the potential employer. A couple of days later we agreed on an engagement. I commenced working there in September 2005 at the office on Moggill Road at Kenmore.
- During the first year I got to know the family well in particular Gerard and his parents. Allison was never really as active in the business as might have been described. At about the time that I started working at Century 21 I am aware that Allison had just had there second daughter Sarah.

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- Gerard and I used to do personal training sessions on a Tuesday morning. Quite often after the training sessions I would attend there home address to 6. shower and get changed before returning to work. This was when Gerard and Allison were living at Gubberley Street Kenmore.
- At about this time I remember we had a staff team get together at the 7. Gubberley street address, this location was a town house complex with a BBQ and pool. This was the first real chance for my wife Michelle to meet the BADEN-CLAY family. The only staffs at that time that were there were the original staff which were James BILLING, Ann Louise SAVAGE and Cheryl HILTON who I am aware has since got marriage. As well as these staff were Gerard, Allison, their two girls Hannah and Sarah and his parents.
- Apart from these get togethers I never got to sit down and have a one on one with Allison. For a while the staff get togethers were held at least once 8. a quarter. It was quite normal not to see Allison especially at the Century 21 yearly awards.
- We never had any personal gatherings with Allison, Gerard and the girls. Quite often the personal gatherings were just with Gerard, my wife 9. Michelle and the girls.
- I can recall very early on I had a conversation with Elaine BADEN-CLAY. She discussed with me that Allison had depression. I was told that during 10. the time just after they returned from overseas, Gerard stopped working for flight centre to care for Allison. I believe this was about the time either before, during or after the birth of Hannah.
 - I spent a lot of time with Gerard we both played golf together and we both worked hard on the business. During that time spent together we would 11. discuss business and personal matters.
 - In about April or May of 2006, Gerard and I took a trip up to Cairns for a training session. It was a Century 21 retreat. We shared a room during this 12. business trip. That was the first time I realised that he snored like an orchestra. During this trip he referred to Allison as Angel and the girls were his angel girls.

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- In 2007 we went to Adelaide for an Annual awards/retreat for Century 21. 13. At this retreat I did not share a room with Gerard I shared a room with Michelle. I do not recall Allison attending the retreat.
- Up until the trip to Adelaide my roll in the business was just a sales person. 14. I would generally answer to Gerard but on occasions given the job I may also discuss matters with his parents.
- After the trip to Adelaide, Ann Louise went to work for Remax. That . 15. changed the dynamic of the office it changed to the main sales being Gerard and myself. Due to this change in Dynamic we started to recruit junior staff to assist the office. Some of the staff that started with the business was Toni MCHUGH, John WEBB and Susan BARNES. They were employed also as sales persons as part of the team. I recall that John would have started before Toni and Susan but I do not recall the exact time.
 - In early 2008, Gerard made me the Senior Sales Agent. He also gave me a 16. set of personalised number plates which were "Settle".
 - In 2008 we took a business trip to Hamilton Island. It was at that stage I had kind of achieved a high profile within Century 21 and in the area. At 17. that stage we thrashed out a business case and I looked at becoming a business partner with Gerard. At the conference the highest profile non Principal was Jocelyn FROST. Jocelyn was working for Century 21 at Victoria point.
 - It would have been not more than two months after the trip to Hamilton 18. Island we had firmed up all the particulars for Jocelyn becoming equal thirds in the partnership at Century 21. Around September 2008 the business partnership with Jocelyn, Gerard and I became official.
 - Around that time Nigel and Elaine stepped out of the business. In hindsight I believe it was the first time I was misled. At about the same time as 19. Jocelyn and I formed the partnership I requested from Gerard the current financial data in relation to the business. I was provided with some financial data but it was explained to me from Gerard that some of the information missing was due to keeping the financial records of his parents private. I now believe that I was not shown the debt that was either from Gerard to his parents or from Gerard to a third party. I believe that Jocelyn

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was also shown the same document and she was provided with the same story of wanting to keep his parents financial situation private.

- 20. At this time I gave a sum of money to a school friend of Gerard's whom I know as Peter CRENA. I have discussed with my wife and she believes the amount was thirty thousand dollars but I believe it may have been twenty thousand. It was my understanding that I was giving the money to Peter as Gerard had a personal loan that he needed to repay. This money was as payment for joining the business.
- 21. At about this time we employed John BRADLEY. At this time I was off due to the birth of my child so Gerard and Jocelyn did the interviewing for new staff.
- 22. In the end of 2008 we met Ben BASSINGTHWAITE. And we started to rebuild our rent roll. The rent roll is the property management side of the business. At about a year or 18 months prior to Ben started at the business Gerard sold the property management to Harcourts to pay something.
- 23. At about this time the name of business changed. The business name was originally Baden-Clay Real Estate. The new business name was Settle Westside.
- All of 2009 was quite a strong and profitable year for us. At this time the partnership was generally well functioning. There was some time where Gerard and I spoke about buying Jocelyn out of the business. This was due to her not performing in our opinions.
- 25. Around the time of October 2009 we had a function down the gold coast for Century 21 for the Principals retreat. The function was at the Crown Plaza and it was a Country and Western theme. At this time we had just hired a number of new staff. The staffs that we had employed at this time were Sharon Phillips, Terri Clark and Kim SAUNDERS. The retreat was only for the Principals but there was an award function on at night and we hired a bus so that all the staff could attend. I had suspicions that there had been a shift in the personal relationships in the office, probably for a couple of weeks or a month or so. I also suspect that Jocelyn had suspicions as well. The staff all came down for the awards and then went back to Brisbane. Allison did not attend this conference. Jocelyn and I were staying with our

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partners. What I recall was when we went to check out I thought I was checking everyone out due to having the card. I inquired with the hotel staff member if Jocelyn and Gerard had already had breakfast. I was informed by the staff member that Gerard had checked out much earlier she suggested it was about midnight. This seemed particularly strange to me as if there was a free breakfast Gerard was normally always there.

- Following this conference was Johns BRADLEY'S engagement party. I 26. think it was possibly about November 2009 and it was held at Tattersals in the City. At that function were Gerard and Allison. At this time I had spoken with my wife and I had discussed that I thought something was going on with Toni and Gerard. With my line of work I am particularly good at reading peoples body language. I often bait people in order to get a physical reaction as opposed to what they want to say to me. On this occasion I could tell that Toni was incredibly uncomfortable with Allison being at the function. We manovered Toni to be next to Allison and Gerard. I could tell she was withdrawn, eyes looking at her feet and very nervous. A short time later Toni said she had to leave. I also noticed that Gerard left the function. At this time I didn't link it to Toni leaving. I do not recall how long he was gone but it was long enough for us to notice. Allison approached Michelle and I and asked if we had seen "G". I remember her saying something about the prawns and asking me to check the toilets. At this time I saw Gerard come back to the function. I noticed that Allison was quite nervous about the situation and I thought she seemed a lot more nervous than I thought Michelle would have been.
 - 27. The following day Jocelyn and I had a quick chat about the incident that had occurred the night prior.
 - I believe that Toni and her partner, Rob relationship ended somewhere around March 2009. I am aware that Toni moved into a unit at Saint Lucia. Gerard and Toni became quite a supstanical relationship. They would go to breakfast together and go to the movies.
 - 29. I believed that they had split up prior to Christmas of 2009. I became aware it was back on at the AREC 2010 conference which was held in May. I think that the relationship was never off. I know that it was definitely back on at this conference because Toni flew to Sydney, to be with Gerard. We

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went to Dinner and we had Chinese near the harbour. We didn't know that she was in Syndey until part of the way through the conference. We weren't surprised that Toni was there as we suspected that it was back on. They came to dinner like a couple and they weren't trying to hide it. They were openly affectionate towards each other in front of us at dinner. At the conference I met a female called Jacqui CRANE who I was aware Gerard had become close to her after doing a training course together. To me she had an expectation that she was going to be Gerard's special guest at dinner. Some of the information shared with CRANE seemed strange due to her being a competitor.

- When we came back to Brisbane we talked about it a lot while we were out together. He was in love with her and he was talking about a future with 30. Toni.
- At about this time I recall a conversation where we were talking about me 31. buying new car. I have a great deal of interest in cars and I have had 4 in four years. He mentioned to me that he would need to buy a bigger car as he would have his children as well as Toni's children.
- I recall having a conversation at about August 2010 with Gerard on another 32. conference where we attended Sydney. I was saying to him that he was my friend but that he needed to put an end to the duplicate world he was leading. He described the relationship with Allison as being over and that he didn't love her. I was told that they hadn't been intimate since Ella was born and they were not sleeping in the same bed. In the Brookfield road house I am aware that he was sleeping on the couch or in the spare room at this time. I am aware that he has a sleeping apparatus that is used to help his snoring/breathing.
 - I am unsure exactly when the change occurred but I became aware that the 33. person he loved clearly changed.
 - The business was doing really well in 2009 and 2010. 2010 was the biggest year and it was the year that I ranked higher than Jocelyn. 2010 was the 34. year I recall that Gerard never sold a property. My role and Jocelyn's roles was to list and sell property. Gerards role in the company was more of a management one.

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- At this time they used to go to Breakfast quite regularly. I believe that the restaurant Flute was there meeting place. They would always arrive in different cars. They were not doing a very good job at keeping it to themselves. At awards night they would sit together which was quite strange.
- 36. There was one incident where I told him that he needed to stop hugging the staff. I never hugged on a business level except maybe at an awards night. I had the conversation due to it appearing to me like he was hugging other staff member to try and deflect the hugs he was giving to Toni.
- 37. When we went to golf which we did quite regularly I would often see him texting constantly. He did once or twice confirm that he was texting Toni.
- 38. I am aware that Toni had a custody arrangement with her partner that she would have the boys one week and he would have them the next. Initially I was aware that Gerard would attend her unit when the boys were not there I also became aware that he would attend the unit once the boys went to bed.
- I do not know what was told to Allison to allow Gerard to spend time with Toni.
- 40. At the end of 2010, in the 4th quarter. I recall that we did about \$600 thousand in commission fees. We had gone back and forth for a couple of months about moving offices. The current location of 2105 Moggill Road Kenmore was not good enough. On two occasions Toni was bought along to check out potential offices. We were able to secure the sub let of a 230 square metres which was about double the space we had at Moggill Road. Jocelyn and I were convinced that it was going to be big enough for the time being. The start of the friction between him and I was when according to Gerard the landlord had approached him about the back L with a cost of \$16000 a month which was over double what we were paying and was ridiculous. That was the first evidence I had that the lease information could have been mis-leading. Gerard came to a conclusion about how we could afford the rent. He had an idea that it could be sub-let out to share the cost.
 - 41. Initially the sales were 70% was given to selling principal and 30% to the business and then it became 60% was given to the selling principal. Given

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that the sales for the 4^{th} quarter were massive it was questioned as to where the money had gone.

- 42. It got to a point where we were robbing Peter to give Paul. We were taking debt from the previous quarter and carrying it over. The back pay to Jocelyn and myself was quite large. The reality was that there wasn't as much money as was supposed to be there.
- 43. In December 2010 although there was a significant amount of money owing to me we were unable to pay the directors. The conclusion was that he organised for a small loan from his friend Peter. I got given a six thousand dollar loan from Gerard. All the repayments I made were made to Peter. I organised to pay Peter back in instalments.
- 44. In January 2011 the floods hit Brisbane and we were completely wiped out. We were looking at a whole bunch of hurt. . We had seven new employees and a ridiculously massive lease. I am unsure of the term of the lease.
- At around the time of the floods I sold my share of the rent roll to Jocelyn. It was quite a quick transaction. I went to Jocelyn because she had money to give Gerard did not. I called Gerard and told him what I intended to do His voice was one of disappointment. I had got myself into a financial situation and I needed to sell my share for the money. Gerard felt that because of this I had deceived him.
- In the following seventeen days we had some pretty intense meetings.

 Jocelyn and I had spent a lot of time trying to work out where the money had gone. The records show that seven hundred thousand dollars was shared amongst the three partners. We were aware that we were paying Gerard about five and half thousand dollars a week when we couldn't pay it would be scaled back. I do not recall the specific salary Gerard was supposed to get. It appeared to us that with the overhead it didn't make sense that we were covering them and having a large sum of money left over. We had some concerns that Gerard was misusing the funds. We had concerns that he was not sharing information with us. I had a conversation with Terri as she was head of accounts. The biggest concern we had was that his team were costing in order of half a million dollars and they were not bringing in any income. When it was addressed with Gerard he deflected that rather than target his team and the cost it was costing the

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business that we were to make more sales to cover the expenses. There was a distinct lack of trust between Jocelyn and Gerard and myself.

- 47. At about this time I started having staff ask me if there was something going on with Toni and Gerard.
- 48. Gerard is particularly good at defecting by answering a question by asking a question. I saw evidence of this during a press conference recently given by Gerard to Channel nine at his parents address about Allison being missing.
- 49. I am unaware if Gerard and Toni were together but I noticed there was some tension. The relationship started and ended a lot during this time. Toni's numbers dropped by a massive percentage. She should have been averaging 50-100 thousand but some quarters she might have a sale for fifteen thousand. When her and Gerard were in love she would have some big quarters and if they were not together she would have very little sales. This was discussed with both Gerard and Toni. We would have to sift through the lies to get the truth. It got to a point where they really shut us out. This also impacted the friendship between Toni and Jocelyn which was because she was advising Toni to get out.
- 50. It is kind of a blur because we would stay back and have meetings trying to sort out the turmoil. I was facing personal and business financial difficulty.
- A meeting was planned to try and resolve some of the issues. The meeting was at the new office and Ben was there to be a mediator. Jocelyn and I didn't believe that the way the business was running was no longer working. I had a number of points that we needed to address with Gerard. I recall the points being
 - You need to decide if you are going to be in a relationship with Toni or with Allison.
 - you have to step down as Managing director
 - We wanted him to take a break and sort himself out.
 - He needed to go back to selling effective immediately.
 - We impose strict monetary limits for when money is paid/accrued.

6. Fire Terri

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I wrote these points down where as I was aware that Jocelyn was also wishing to address a number of issues but I believe she had them in her head. The meeting didn't go very well at all. There was swearing and crying. He can use his emotional blackmail to get what he wants. Gerard is the type of guy that will seek forgiveness rather than ask permission.

I remember him saying words to the affect of "I only continue to fuck her for the sake of the business". The meeting finished at about midnight and he was not in a fit state to decide what would happen as a result of the meeting. Around the same time we had agreed to borrow one hundred thousand dollars from the CEO of Century 21 which is Charles TARBEY. Jocelyn felt that prior to it becoming discussed with us it had already been set up. Charles and Gerard were very close and had previously taken a trip to China.

- The next day Jocelyn and Toni had a fractured relationship. I am aware that 52. Jocelyn went to see Toni and spoke to her about what was said at the meeting. I am aware that Toni told Gerard of what Jocelyn had said and things got heated. I was there when Gerard confronted Jocelyn. There was no choice as it was very heated. On this same day a counter offer was made to me by Gerard. He stated he would take on all of the debt and he would buy me out for one dollar. The funniest thing to me that he kept saying that he was trying to protect me. He said whether it is 100 thousand or 500 thousand I t doesn't matter to me. He said he had very little equity. A person doesn't say that if there is wealth behind them and they stand to loose this wealth. As part of this deal I would be paid more than any other sales person in the office and I would get a added payment if I met certain mile stones. This offer was not one that I expected. I thought he would get rid of Terri and sort out his personal life. I thought he would go back to selling. I thought there would be a proactive response that would benefit the business.
 - If no agreement was made then and there it was most likely going to mean 53. bankruptcy. Jocelyn and I had an amount of personal wealth that we stood to loose. I was not prepared to borrow against my own assets to put into the business.

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- We looked at a number of options, I looked into buying him out with two of my close friends and I am aware Jocelyn also looked at other options.
- About a week later I was made aware that three of his friends had agreed to 55. lend him money. This was a surprise to me as it was organised in a very short amount of time. The exact amount of money they lent him I am unsure but I know it was a lot of money. The friends that I believe helped him were Peter CRENA, Stuart CHRIST and a male named Rob that owns 57 Woodfield Road at Pullenvale.
- I was in a financial situation where I had to support my family. The break 56. down of partnership destroyed me financially and affected me psychologically.
- I believe that the agreement with Jocelyn was that she would also be paid 57. out one dollar I believe that she was given ten thousand dollars. Jocelyn was in a different financial situation than I was. Jocelyn left the business pretty much as soon as the partnership ended it was possibly a week or two weeks later.
- The business partnership ended sometime about February 2011. 58.
- From February 2011, I continued to work at Century 21 however my role 59. was that of a sales person. I stayed in my office and continued to make sales. There was a massive shift in power. There was obvious animosity from other staff towards Toni. I was often asked questions by the staff about the relationship between Toni and Gerard. The relationship at this time between Gerard and myself was not particularly good. relationship outside the business had completely stopped. I used to avoid Gerard.
- There was one staff meeting that was held at Kenmore MacDonald's. Due 60. to the reconstruction of the layout of the office. Gerard had physically changed the office so that it could be sub let to assist with lease payments.
- Gerard was standing some what affectionately behind Toni when Allison 61. walked into the MacDonald's. I am certain that at this time Allison clearly had no idea about the relationship. Toni instantly recoiled when she saw Allison. I believe that Allison randomly showed up as I had not seen her at a meeting for years.

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- On Saturday the 1st of October 2011 I officially left Century 21. I had stayed on because I wanted the incentives but it just felt wrong to continue to work there. The decisions being made I didn't agree with. Although I had avoided bankruptcy it hadn't been easy and I ended up asking more questions. I think when I first told Gerard I was leaving he was initially shocked. I was always going on holidays at this time for my wife's brother wedding. On that day I had the open house showings I had already had planned. I had cleared out of my office. I was made aware that he had organised for someone else to do his open house showing. He had returned to the office and began calling all of my clients to see if they intended on staying with him or coming with me.
- Two staff members came to me and expressed concern about staying 63. employed with Century 21. They asked me to let them know if I was intending on leaving. I didn't until a couple of days prior to leaving as a result but John left the same day I left. Mitch left a short time later.
- Within the month of October Mitch, Sharon, Terri and VJ had either 64. resigned or were asked to leave.
- On the 13th of October 2011, Michelle and I boarded a plane to go to 65. Auckland. When we got to New Zealand I had a missed phone call from Gerard. And I also had a missed call from Toni. Gerard had not left a message but Toni had. The message was words to the affect of "I can't believe you told her I can't believe Jeff would of told the tuckshop mums". I rang her and was surprised she answered. She was not in a very good state. She was crying and explained to me that Gerard had come to her that morning and that he told her that Allison had found out. And that he was breaking up with her as he was choosing to stay with Allison. I remember her telling me that she had quit the business. I said that I didn't believe that Allison had found out from tuckshop ladies I told her that I believed she found out through other means. The call terminated and I called Toni back and we had a longer conversation.
 - I called Gerard back but he didn't answer the call. 66.
 - I have a Facebook account that I activated this year. I am aware that it is 67. common practice for real estate agents to have two accounts with Facebook. This is because one is for the running of the business and a public profile

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and one is for the personal life. I am not friends with Gerard or Allison on Facebook. I do not know if Gerard has two facebook accounts. I am aware of one public account.

- 68. When I returned to Australia from my trip to America I received an email from Gerard. The context of the email was that he wanted the set of personalise plates that he had given to me in 2009. It surprised me that the plates had been registered in my name. This was a surprise as I had been given to me as a gift. I delivered the plates to the office sometime after the email. I think it was possibly in November or December.
- 69. The last email I received from Gerard was at the start of 2012. The email was about the fact he had tried to attach the plates to his vehicle but couldn't due to them being in my name. He was requesting that I sign over the plates to him. At this stage I was also owed an amount of money which was as a result of finance referral fees. When he asked for me to sign the plates over I requested he pay the outstanding money prior to me signing over the plates. I received an email that stated he would look into the amount owing and I heard nothing further from him. I realise that I am not going to get that money.
- 70. Gerard has a public face which is ethical moral and upstanding. A lot of that is legacy fuelled due to his great grandfather. He is involved in all the right groups but it's always about what is in it for him. He is politically savvy. I know that Bruce FLEGG and Gerard have a relationship where they talk. I don't think these are genuine interactions with persons. He would lecture staff about lying but would continue this long term affair. I didn't appreciate how he could talk to me about being deceptive when he was living a lie.
- Gerard's relationship is very unique. His mother is very protective of Gerard. They are a family where what you see isn't what you get. The family is very much about the legacy. I was told that when they came to Australia they came with a surname of CLAY and had it changed to BADEN- CLAY. His father Nigel is a great a guy but I think there is a very manipulative side to him. When I returned to Australia I received a phone call from Nigel looking for some signs. He made a comment like I hope this is the end of the shenanigans. At the time that comment seemed

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strange to me. If your son had an affair why would you call it shenanigans. I haven't spoken or seen him since then. I was led to believe that he had borrowed money against a property he and Allison had on the gold coast in order to pay his parents back.

- 72. The only time he made a weird statement to me about cheating on Allison was when I was in the office with possibly Ben. I asked him how he got into this situation and he said something like its alot like being a baby shaker you don't think you're a baby shaker until your caught shaking a baby.
- 73. As a family they use field signals. Field signals are sign gestures that Gerard uses with his children. Gerard told me that he touches the girls on the leg and that means that its adult talking time and that they were not to interrupt. There are good kids and there are quiet kids and there are obedient serviant type kids which is what Gerard's girls are like. I noticed after the birth of my son the girls are abnormally quiet.
- 74. Nigel and Gerard and have a superior knowledge of the local area. I am aware that Nigel walks his dogs in the local area. I would often have conversations with Nigel about the area including the houses. We have in the past played a game where I would name a street in our catchment and ask the colour of the roof on the left hand side corner of the street, more often or not Nigel and I would be able to get it right. I was in the car one time with Gerard and a number of persons when Gerard drove at speed down a track that joined Moggill Road and Rafting ground Road. I am aware that Allison by default would know the area.
 - Originally when Allison went missing I thought she had been abducted by someone clse. I believe that if Allison was walking in the area someone would of seen her. There is always a number of people walking and riding at that time.

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On the 26th day of April 2012 I attended the Indooroopilly Police Station and provided this statement. During this statement I drew a picture of the area where Gerard drove at speed near Rafting ground road and also the walk that the media have said Allison walked.

Justices Act Acknowledgement

Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of section IIOA(6C)(c) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 26th day of April 2012 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 15 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.

...Signature

Signed at Indooroopilly this 26th day of April 2012

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