

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE  
RESERVES (RESERVE 43131) BILL 2003**

**TRANSCRIPT OF EVIDENCE TAKEN  
AT PERTH  
ON WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2003**

**SESSION 1**

**Members**

**Hon Peter Foss (Chairman)  
Hon Robin Chapple  
Hon Jon Ford  
Hon Louise Pratt  
Hon Derrick Tomlinson**

**The committee commenced at 7.04 pm**

**MUMME, MR ROBERT**

**Inspector WA Police Service,**

**East Metropolitan District Office,**

**examined:**

**The CHAIRMAN:** You have signed a document entitled "Information for Witnesses". Have you read and understood that document?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** These proceedings are being recorded by Hansard. A transcript of your evidence will be provided to you. To assist the committee and Hansard please quote the full title of any document referred to during the course of this hearing for the record, and please be aware of the microphone and try to talk into it. I remind you that your transcript will become a matter for the public record. If for some reason you wish to make a confidential statement during today's proceedings, you should request that the evidence be taken in closed session. If the committee grants your request, any public and media in attendance will be excluded from the hearing. Please note that until such time as the transcript of your public evidence is finalised, the transcript should not be made public. You can obviously discuss the same sort of things, but you cannot make the transcript public. You have provided a statement and we apologise for being late; we have all been reading and digesting it. Can you give us a thumbnail sketch of your experience?

**Mr Mumme:** I joined the Police Service in 1972. My previous experience was in the armed services in Vietnam. I have virtually served for the Federal or State Governments all of my life. I was a general duties police officer for two years, went to traffic, transferred to Albany and Denmark, made a transition back to general duties and I started relieving at stations like Tambellup and Cranbrook. I then transferred to Geraldton in 1986 and obtained the rank of sergeant. From there I went to Mt Magnet as the officer in charge. I relieved at stations such as Wiluna and Meekatharra, and basically did the rounds with the magistrate in the Geraldton district and on a few occasions did the prosecuting. I transferred back to Perth in 1993. I formed the Traffic Operations Group during regionalisation of the Police Service and then obtained the commission rank in 1997 and I have been at Midland ever since.

**The CHAIRMAN:** From that experience it sounds like you have had a fair bit of time dealing with Aboriginal people?

**Mr Mumme:** A lot of time, yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Have you formed any view as to the appropriate way to deal with Aboriginal people when policing?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes. First of all you have to establish a dialogue with them and gain a bit of a working relationship. If you give information it has to be correct, and if you are going to say you will be there, you be there; or you help them during times when they are in strife; and you deal with them according to the law. Provided you do that, whether you arrest them or have a scuffle in the dirt with them, provided you treat them fairly and squarely, you get along quite okay. You build that trust with them.

**The CHAIRMAN:** When you moved to Midland, I take it you had quite a number of dealings with Aboriginal people. Have you dealt with all of the communities in that area?

**Mr Mumme:** I was a member of the MAAG committee, which was the Midland Aboriginal Advancement Group, of which you have knowledge, and I had a lot of dealings with Aboriginal people through that. It was mainly built up out of Aboriginal government workers or different organisations all working towards trying to advance Aboriginal interests in the Midland district. With Mr Bropho it was a different kettle of fish. It took a little time to get to know him and be on speaking terms with people in his camp, and the same with the Saunders Street, Henley Brook area. It just took a little bit of time; I suppose you have got the politics within the Aboriginal community that sort of hindered things a little bit, but as far as policing went there were some issues when I first went to that district. It was just a matter of building up a relationship, trust and particularly getting the Aboriginal police liaison officers working as they should be working.

[7.10 pm]

**The CHAIRMAN:** On behalf of the committee, I should receive your statement formally. Will you confirm that the evidence you have given in that statement is correct.

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** At this stage the committee will not receive the briefing note attached to your statement because it mentions some things that the committee will receive in private. At this stage we are dealing with only your statement. In paragraphs 4 and 5 of your statement you said -

I am aware that there was an ineffective working relationship between police, the Swan Valley Nyungah Community members and particularly Robert Bropho during 1997 and 1998 when police attended as a result of attending complaints and effecting arrests.

In November 1998 Sergeant James Clarysse was transferred as a supervisor to the Lockridge Police Station. (now Kiara) Through his efforts and dialogue with Robert Bropho, the working relationship with police and the community members improved considerably.

Did you observe that personally?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes. Sergeant James Clarysse was at Midland Police Station prior to going to Kiara. He was the first supervisor of the Aboriginal police liaison officers, in an informal role; it was not his job. I was overseeing the management of the Midland Police Station and James Clarysse happened to be there. It was mainly when we had a lot of probationary constables within the district and Sergeant James Clarysse was put in charge of them and I added a few things on. Basically, prior to going to Lockridge he had made some contact with Bropho's camp through the Aboriginal police liaison officers.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Would it be fair to say that both you and Sergeant Clarysse went out of your way to observe what you thought were the proper methods of policing with Aboriginal people and to instil that in the officers under your control?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes

**The CHAIRMAN:** From your point of view, did that work?

**Mr Mumme:** I believe so. I do not have to be invited to the camp. I was always contactable on the phone, whether I wanted to be or not. I was able to solve a lot of issues just by attending the camp and sitting down and having a cup of tea or talking with him. Sometimes we did not agree, but he understood the police's position a lot better. It was a matter of going there and talking with him.

**The CHAIRMAN:** At paragraph 8 you say -

I am not aware of any occasions when the APLO Unit encountered any resistance or aggressiveness from Robert Bropho or community members during these visits to the campsite.

**Mr Mumme:** Not since 1998. Prior to that there were. Simply because I consider we had the wrong type of APLO there and they were not being led in the right direction. They were either making coffee or catching car thieves. It was not the right way to go. We did not have the type of relationship between the community and the police that we required and which they were designed for. Since we made a few changes, and transferred a few out and got a few new ones in, things started to change. Sergeant Clarysse was very much a part of that.

**The CHAIRMAN:** At paragraph 9 of your statement you say -

I have a cordial working relationship with Robert Bropho and often would receive telephone calls from him or his staff to attend the camp to discuss his issues and concerns. Most of these issues will be related to actions of police and these would be explained and clarified by myself. On most occasions my advice was accepted by him.

Would you sit down with him and explain to him why you did what you did?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes, either on the phone or during a personal visit.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Did you then give him a recommendation about what he should do?

**Mr Mumme:** At the time he was charged with assaulting the television reporter, I suppose I followed up on the work of Sergeant Clarysse. I think he was the officer who charged him. Once I explained to Robert Bropho what the charge was, and the elements of the charge, he understood why we had to charge him. There were other instances in which search warrants were issued, police would pull someone up in front of the camp or a car had crashed through the front yard and Robert Bropho would ask what were we doing about it. I talked with him about those issues.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Did you find him not an unreasonable person, provided you treated him reasonably?

**Mr Mumme:** He has a certain amount of abruptness.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Yes, he does.

**Mr Mumme:** I spoke to him the way I spoke with most Aboriginal people. You have to adjust yourself to different - it depends where they come from. I could talk to him. There would be a certain point where he would have enough and he would go off - I mean move away.

[7.20 pm]

**The CHAIRMAN:** You state also -

10. During 2002 and the removal operation of the Education Department classroom from the campsite, I visited Robert Bropho several times, following up efforts of Sergeant Clarysse, to ensure that the intended removal went ahead without any breaches of the peace or unlawful acts by the community.

Was that before or after the audit?

**Mr Mumme:** Before.

**The CHAIRMAN:** You continue -

The removal of the classroom did not attract any unlawful acts from the community and there were no complaints received by police.

Did you attend that removal?

**Mr Mumme:** Sergeant Clarysse monitored the removal that day. I actually did attend, but not during the removal stage. My main concern was keeping dialogue with Robert Bropho prior to that happening, because there were rumours floating around the community about the large number of people who would be there to obstruct the works. My main concern was that we had other policing issues than just that. Just through talking with him, basically what it all came down to in a nutshell

was that he just wanted to make a point, without any disruption. A lot of the stuff that I was hearing was a lot of rumours. My visits were sort of sorting out the rumours as to what was actually happening so that I could judge what the police response would have to be. The only time that I did attend after that business was - I think the first time I visited there, there was stuff removed from the classroom; it must have been the furniture or something like that. The airconditioner was taken, and he was a bit incensed about that, but the actual removal of the building did not cause any problems at all for us.

**The CHAIRMAN:** How many police did attend that? Can you recall?

**Mr Mumme:** It was just drive-bys. Sergeant Clarysse was monitoring it very closely. To my knowledge we just had patrols going past keeping an eye on it. We actually did not specifically attend that.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Was the audit attended by police officers from Midland and Kiara?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes. It was led by Superintendent Dave Parkinson. I was not there at that time.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do you know how many police attended?

**Mr Mumme:** Superintendent Dave Parkinson and Sergeant Clarysse, and other CEOs or managers within the district.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I was thinking in terms of the police.

**Mr Mumme:** I really do not know. I have a feeling I was on holidays at that time.

**The CHAIRMAN:** You state also -

11. On 22 May 2003 I was the Acting Superintendent of the East Metropolitan District. During the morning I received a telephone call from Sergeant Clarysse advising that Robert Bropho had contacted him and requested that he be present at a meeting that day with the Hon Derek Tomlinson MLC at the campsite. Sergeant Clarysse requested my attendance.
12. I attended the meeting to ensure that any comments on the police perspective were factual and complied with Police Service policy. Present at the meeting were the Hon Derek Tomlinson MLC, Robert Bropho, Bella Bropho, Ivor Hayward-Jackson, Margaret Jefferies, Sergeant Clarysse and myself.
13. Three specific questions were put to Robert Bropho by the Hon Derek Tomlinson MLC in the presence of Sergeant Clarysse and myself. No contentious issues relating to police were raised at this meeting. I appraised Acting Assistant Commissioner Balchin by telephone of the meeting . . .

You realise what happened in terms of the legislation to remove the Swan Valley Nyoongahs from that camp. Was that raised at any stage with the Midland police prior to the decision having been made?

**Mr Mumme:** It was. I went to two meetings at Indigenous Affairs. The meetings were run by representatives from Premier and Cabinet. At that meeting were the CEOs of the various government departments. There were other meetings conducted, but they were the two that I attended.

**The CHAIRMAN:** When were they? Can you recall?

**Mr Mumme:** The last meeting was the day before the actual eviction from the camp.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The decision had already been made at that stage, had it not?

**Mr Mumme:** Well -

**The CHAIRMAN:** And the legislation had been passed.

**Mr Mumme:** The legislation had been passed, but the decision had not been made.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Had you attended any meetings prior to the legislation being introduced?

**Mr Mumme:** One, yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** What date was that? If you cannot remember the date now, can you check your notes?

**Mr Mumme:** I cannot remember the date. It possibly could have been a month before then.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do you have anywhere that you would have recorded that date?

**Mr Mumme:** Probably in my diary.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Would you check your diary and let us know, please? Was that a meeting with the CEOs?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes. Hang on. The Premier and Cabinet representatives were there. The solicitor acting for Premier and Cabinet was there. Indigenous Affairs had possibly just the local manager. Actually, I could not answer that truthfully.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Would you have the details of that in your diary?

**Mr Mumme:** No, but I can check on that.

**The CHAIRMAN:** At that stage was it clear whether any decision had been made as to what they thought was the appropriate way to deal with it? In other words, were they talking about closing the camp? Were they talking about a memorandum of understanding? What were they talking about.

**Mr Mumme:** The main discussion was the legislation and what it would mean. There was some discussion about the policing aspect of it. I did say that if there was going to be a demonstration there or large public support where public order needed to be maintained, then because of all the other interests we had at the time, I would need at least three days' notice. I think it was public knowledge that something was going to happen at the camp at that stage.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Just to clarify that, at the time you attended that meeting, from your understanding a decision had already been made to introduce legislation?

**Mr Mumme:** Legislation was being introduced, yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** So that decision had already been made at the time you attended that meeting?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** So it was not a question of saying to you, "What do you think is the best way to deal with the Swan Valley Nyungah community?"; it was a matter of, "How are you going to handle the carrying into effect of the legislation?"

**Mr Mumme:** I never got asked. From a police perspective, my concern was if this happens, how are we going to control it.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do you have any personal views as to what sort of problem that community posed from a policing point of view?

**Mr Mumme:** I do. Whether I express them or not is another matter.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We are asking you to express them.

**Mr Mumme:** Okay. I must make it clear that these are my personal concerns. My concern about the whole process was that everything I do in the Police Service is in accordance with a well thought out plan. My main concerns were the displacement of these people to where. I knew the answer straightaway, because I knew where they would go. It would cause us a lot of concern and issues out at Henley Brook. My main concern was that if we are going to displace people - and at

that stage I did not know whether it was one, two or three people, or the whole lot, but nevertheless

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**The CHAIRMAN:** Even one can be a problem.

**Mr Mumme:** Well, Robert Bropho would not have been a problem, because he has got a house in Guildford, but Harvey and the others are, I suppose, the firebrands within the camp. It is a very fluid number there. You never know exactly how many people are going to be there. My main concern was where these people were going to go, but I already knew that answer.

**The CHAIRMAN:** You thought they would go to Henley Brook?

**Mr Mumme:** I knew that through my earlier inquiries with Robert Bropho and other community people.

**The CHAIRMAN:** And of course you still have to deal with them whether they are in Lord Street or Henley Brook?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes. Within Lord Street they were controllable, because we had that dialogue there. At Henley Brook I knew there would be tensions between the Kicketts and the Brophos, even though Aboriginal custom means they cannot refuse to give people shelter and what have you. Tensions do get strained out there. As far as the policing perspective goes, the surrounding businesspeople and residential areas are pretty toey.

[7.30 pm]

**The CHAIRMAN:** Already?

**Mr Mumme:** With Henley Brook and the Saunders Street camp they have been toey ever since I have been at Midland. It has always been of concern to the Chamber of Commerce, DOLA and us in trying to promote the Midland area and the Swan Valley. It is a fairly contentious area out that way.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Were your expectations justified? Did they go where you thought they would go?

**Mr Mumme:** Exactly.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Did it result in any problems for you?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes, we have had a few issues out there. A dog was shot, which the police did an investigation into. I do not know the result. I have been on sick leave since October, so I have really lost the knowledge of what is going on out there at the moment.

**The CHAIRMAN:** We will take your remarks up till October.

**Mr Mumme:** There were issues. There was a person by the name of Robert Yarran who took over from Kickett as, I suppose, the chairperson of the camp. He lasted for only a matter of a week or two. I do not know what the actual reason was, but I believe it could have been related. I know that Robert Bropho was linked to the Saunders Street camp in the early days.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Were there any public meetings held there?

**Mr Mumme:** There were.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Concerning that camp?

**Mr Mumme:** Concerning people going to that camp, yes, and prior to that.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Would you be able to check for us whether there were any police incidents as a result of people who moved into Saunders Street? Are they easy to obtain and are they location related?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes, it could be done by post code. We can do that.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Could you let us have those details by letter?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes, we can give you those details.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do you have any views on what impact the fact that he has been left out there has had on your relationship with Mr Bropho? Has it in any way affected your relationship?

**Mr Mumme:** None whatsoever.

**The CHAIRMAN:** He has not attributed any fault to you in this particular instance?

**Mr Mumme:** No, because I suppose in my dialogue with him - and the same with Sergeant Clarysse, by ourselves, together or whatever - we are just straight up-front with him. I still believe I have got that working relationship with him, sometimes to my detriment. When he was camped at the front here on his hunger strike, my mobile phone was ringing red hot, but I still spoke to him and dealt with him as a human being, which I suppose is what I do with everyone.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I will not ask you to confirm the evidence we have already had from Sergeant Clarysse, because he had a more direct role. One of the things you did in May or June was to speak to Mr Bropho about the impending closure. What did he indicate to you would be the reaction to any forced closure of the camp?

**Mr Mumme:** I spoke to him the day before it happened. That is the last time I spoke to him. He just advised me he wanted to have the TV camera on him when he received the order, so he could immediately lodge an appeal or whatever. He just wanted it recorded. He assured me that there would be no large-scale incidents and no large-scale players to deal with. That is exactly what happened, apart from a bit of, I suppose, acting for the TV at the time.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I do not want to ask about the detail of the briefing note from Assistant Commissioner Atherton. It seems to have been about 22 May and deals with some of the police views of the situation. This is attached to your statement.

**Mr Mumme:** Yes, I was -

**The CHAIRMAN:** I was going to ask you that question. You are the one who prepared it or some of it?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** You wrote there -

Acting Senior Sergeant Clarysse advised that in relation to access by other Government departments, there had been significant improvements at the conclusion of the Susan Taylor inquest and in particular, since the multi-agency audit in December which involved Superintendent Parkinson and CEO's of other Government Agencies. There have been no lockouts or lockins of police personnel since 1999 and relationships have improved considerably.

That is your understanding of what the situation has been?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Were you aware of any denial to government departments accessing the campsite by Mr Bropho?

**Mr Mumme:** Not since Sergeant Clarysse was transferred to Lockridge Police Station at Kiara. I personally have no knowledge of it. I do know that prior to me or police attending there, there have been two people from, it must be the Cannington branch of the -

**The CHAIRMAN:** DCD.

**Mr Mumme:** Yes, it keeps changing its name. They maintained contact from that period. Our local branch is at Midland - all I do know is that since that audit they would only attend with police



attending with them, but as for my knowledge of government departments attending at Bropho's camp prior to that audit, I am not aware of any other than those two people from DCD, Cannington.

**The CHAIRMAN:** It continues -

Acting Senior Sergeant Clarysse is a member of the local Interagency Steering Committee for the implementation of the Gordon Inquiry recommendations, on which all Government departments are represented. This committee has had unfettered access to the campsite since the multi-Government audit of the campsite.

Is that your understanding?

**Mr Mumme:** That is in consultation with Sergeant Clarysse. I am relying on briefings from him. I am not part of that committee.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I understand that, but this is information that you were able to convey.

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** You were going through the allegations that had been given to Hon Derrick Tomlinson as justifying the urgent introduction and passage of this legislation. One of them was no access by government departments. Your advice at that stage was that your local interagency committee had unfettered access. The second one was about a young female who had been forcibly removed from the campsite. Again I will not mention any names here, but you would have dealt with the names, and you say that this person was not forcibly removed and to the best knowledge of police was not placed in a safe house. She appears to have gone there voluntarily.

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** The third one is -

*Allegation of a juvenile male having legs and arms broken by members within the campsite.*

You referred in that case to a young 15 or 16-year-old who had fallen from a tree at his normal place of residence in Ashfield and who happened to have visited the camp. Was that the only thing you could identify that might have fitted in with that?

**Mr Mumme:** That advice came from Robert Bropho. Sergeant Clarysse did check it out. He advised me that was the case, but we received no other complaints.

**The CHAIRMAN:** You have here that there were some complaints about suspected abuse and domestic violence. It says here -

This information was not given by Acting Senior Sergeant Clarysse and the only information relating to abuse and domestic violence stated at this meeting was by Acting Superintendent Mumme. This information related to - there was no solvent abuse problem at the campsite and this activity was mainly contained within the central business district of Midland.

[7.40 pm]

**Mr Mumme:** I am not saying there was not a real core solvent abuse problem there. In fact, it was discouraged -

**The CHAIRMAN:** Vigorously.

**Mr Mumme:** Quite fearlessly by one of the most volatile people in there, Harvey -

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** Harvey or Herbert?

**Mr Mumme:** Herbert. However, I do know of some instances where Herbert was chasing people around because they had been sniffing solvents or whatever, but it was not a problem that needed firm controlling. The main problem we had was specifically surrounding the Midland CBD -

**The CHAIRMAN:** Tuohy park.

**Mr Mumme:** Tuohy park, yes, but it was mainly outside people, not the local community. We also had the old Midland Bowling Club, which is the North East Regional Youth Council, I think, that used to attract - I suppose because they used to look after them - mainly a lot of the solvent abusers from the entire metropolitan area. That was what we were actually seeing within the CBD. Specifically, around the campsite, it was not too much of a problem. Although I would say that once they left the campsite, particularly around Bassendean, there would have been a bit of it going on.

**The CHAIRMAN:** It was not that the campsite was a source of it. It was a relatively calm area in the middle of a solvent area.

**Mr Mumme:** Robert Bropho used to give me a lot of information about people with other interests trying to supply solvents and whatever to the camp. He used to nominate these people to me and I would follow it up. They did try to look after the problems that were trying to come into the camp. They were trying very hard on the solvent issue.

**Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE:** Were Robert and/or the officers at the camp actually phoning you or Sergeant Clarysse for assistance in these matters?

**Mr Mumme:** No, not actual assistance.

**Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE:** For information provision?

**Mr Mumme:** Mainly, it was just a flow of information.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Crime Stoppers type of information.

**Mr Mumme:** Yes. The information that we would get from them proved pretty valuable and we did lay some charges out of it.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** In this information that Robert Bropho would give you from time to time about people who were trying to supply substances, did he refer to them as bungeemen?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** Is it your understanding that the bungeeman is a person who will provide the solvents particularly to young girls in return for sex?

**Mr Mumme:** Young girls and boys.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** Was it Mr Bropho who alerted you to these people?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes, he alerted me to a specific one who was a retailer in another suburb out of the district who had a habit of supplying particularly paint solvents to the younger Aboriginals. He did not actually come into the camp but he was well known for supplying. That information was acted upon through Sergeant Clarysse and, I think, another district.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** To your knowledge, did these bungeemen ply their trade only in the camp or elsewhere in the district?

**Mr Mumme:** The Midland CBD is particularly bad for it.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** Did you prepare a report on solvent abuse by Aboriginal people within the Midland police district?

**Mr Mumme:** Not a report specifically, I suppose. Not that I recall.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** Not a report specifically. Did you present any information to the Police Service about the prevalence of solvent abuse?

**Mr Mumme:** It is highly possible. I actually prepared a briefing for Superintendent Parkinson, which was quite lengthy, and was under his signature. Whether that was mentioned or not, I am not sure.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That was at this time, was it? When did you do that?

**Mr Mumme:** No, it was well prior to this occurring. I picked up a lot of information off some of our better Aboriginal police liaison officers and maintained contact with the different community camps. Some of the people within the community through MAAG were expressing concerns to me and I did up a profile on Mr Bropho and his influence -

**The CHAIRMAN:** Can we have a copy?

**Mr Mumme:** You should actually have that because Superintendent Parkinson actually -

**The CHAIRMAN:** I think we do have that. I have something here that mentions the cone of silence.

**Mr Mumme:** It would have been prepared in 2002.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Is that the one that mentions the cone of silence?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes, that is the one. I was the author of that.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I remember reading it.

**Mr Mumme:** It was about intimidation of witnesses.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Yes, I think that is the one I read. Can you have a look at the document?

**Mr Mumme:** This briefing note is the one that I did. I must point out that it was a response, I think, in relation to the Gordon inquiry. Superintendent Parkinson had an issue with the whole focus being pointed more or less directly at the Lockridge campsite when we had concerns and thought there were bigger concerns at other areas within Midland - Cullacabardee being of particular note.

**The CHAIRMAN:** So you had general concern. Although it was unusual in the sense of having Mr Bropho there who is a fairly significant and touchy figure, from a policing point of view, it was not the major source of interest. It certainly did not stand out head and shoulders above the rest.

**Mr Mumme:** I have a lot of concerns with Cullacabardee because we heard that anywhere up to 30 or 50 kids were not going to school. I received a lot of information about drugs and firearms being sold there - more issues than what I knew about at Bropho's camp.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Cullacabardee also had the problem of being a dumping ground for the State Housing Commission.

**Mr Mumme:** It did, but it lacked management. It was self-management, but it was fear, intimidation and it was a hell of a lot worse than Lockridge.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** How did Saunders Street compare?

**Mr Mumme:** It was not too bad.

**The CHAIRMAN:** There did not seem to be a lot of people there until -

[7.50 pm]

**Mr Mumme:** No, provided Danny Kickett kept a tight reign in out there. I remember one inquiry from the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry about the number of offences that were occurring in the strip surrounding Saunders Street by a number of kids. I made some inquiries and the only kid in the camp was a four-year-old. Members of the community did not look past their nose. They should have looked at Ellenbrook where a considerable number of Aboriginal families had moved. The Saunders Street camp copped the blame for every transient person going through. It was unfairly criticised but it had its issues from time to time.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That community mentioned to us there was a bit of a dispute with some of the people in Ellenbrook and they made a point of causing trouble in the local area so that the people there got the blame for it.

**Mr Mumme:** People are very mobile these days. The specific area is targeted through break-ins and whatever other problems they had. I suppose people tend to forget that these people need only up to 20 minutes to travel there by car. That Swan Valley Road is a major route for Aboriginal people.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Sydney Road is outside your area, I take it.

**Mr Mumme:** Just.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do any problems emanate from Sydney Road?

**Mr Mumme:** Indirectly, policing-wise, I think the whole metropolitan area has issues with Sydney Road.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** In your judgment, as far as policing matters are concerned, were Sydney Road and Cullacabardee more problematic than the Swan Valley Nyungah Community in Lord Street?

**Mr Mumme:** From what I picked up from the briefing notes I read every morning about the goings on, I would say there are definitely more issues at Cullacabardee. My personal views are that probably Bropho had a higher profile, I suppose. That is my personal view.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I understand that all your views are personal. There are more people at Cullacabardee invariably. They all suffer from highly variable populations. From our observations there are more people at Cullacabardee and certainly at Sydney Road?

**Mr Mumme:** To be fair to Sydney Road, there was administration there that sort of worked. Cullacabardee did not work. Lockridge had probably a one-person rule that sort of worked.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** Saunders Street worked when Danny Kickett was there.

**Mr Mumme:** When Danny Kickett was there holding the reins and when there were not situations such as surrounding the Royal Show grounds, large scale funerals or unrest, it was pretty good.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Again, the number is small at Saunders Road.

**Mr Mumme:** It is, yes. There are only about four or five houses in the whole place.

**The CHAIRMAN:** They are not all occupied anyway.

**Mr Mumme:** No.

**Hon ROBIN CHAPPLE:** Thank you very much indeed, Inspector Mumme. You obviously had a significant history among communities such as Warburton and places like that. How does the Swan Valley Nyungah Community compare in terms of organisation, cleanliness and function with communities generally that you might have witnessed across the State? Is it on a par, better or worse?

**Mr Mumme:** It depends on where the camp is. I can speak with some authority on Mt Magnet. Mr Bropho's camp was way above standards in terms of cleanliness than those at Mt Magnet. Swan Valley was better than Wiluna. I do not have any opinion on the health issues of the camp. I was aware of certain things. There was some substance abuse and some health issues that would concern people, such as transmittable diseases and stuff like that. I think Mr Bropho's camp was on a par with, I suppose, other camps within the metropolitan area. I am talking about Sydney Road of which I have no knowledge. I would say that Cullacabardee was more of a concern to me than Bropho's camp in relation to any issues.

**The CHAIRMAN:** What about the standard of accommodation?

**Mr Mumme:** It appeared to be okay. I suppose it is equal to any temporary accommodation you get anywhere else.

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** I have a question that relates to the document that was heard in private.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do you need to name people?

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** No.

**The CHAIRMAN:** It will be all right if you ask a question without any part of that coming out. Can you do that?

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** Yes, that is fine. The document reads -

It would appear that the main issues are still alcohol, drug, sexual abuse and domestic violence.

I understand that you wrote this evidence, but it does not have your name on it, is that right?

**Mr Mumme:** This is a briefing note that I compiled after speaking with different Aboriginal people - some of our more trusted Aboriginal police liaison officers. This is their information to me because Mr Parkinson needed to be briefed on, I suppose, the total picture of all camp sites.

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** It is on the bottom of the second last page.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Which document are you referring to?

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** The one that is labelled No 8.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** For the record, can you identify the name of the document?

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** It is headed "Briefing Note" and underneath is a paragraph - "Management of Swan Valley Noongar Camp".

**The CHAIRMAN:** It also says "Cullacabardee and Urban Community of Henley Brook (Saunders Street) Aboriginal Communities".

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Are we all reading the same document? You are referring to the bottom of which page?

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** It is headed "Proposed Action/Solution" at the bottom of the page, which is not numbered.

Even though there are summaries on the various communities, the statement I quoted under the heading "Proposed Action/Solution" does appear to refer to the Swan Valley Nyungah community. The statement reads -

It would appear that the main issues are still alcohol, drug, sexual abuse and domestic violence.

As an inquiry, we have heard a number of allegations of this kind of abuse but then we get similar feedback from what you gave tonight that those things are unsubstantiated, yet in a briefing document like this these statements are still made. I want to know on what basis you can substantiate and feel confident about putting these kinds of statements in a document like this?

**Mr Mumme:** I think you will find that paragraph relates to, I suppose, all the camp sites.

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** It states -

The community comprises approximately 30-45 permanent residents.

**Mr Mumme:** As I said, it is information I received from members of the community. They are not my own personal observations.

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** Are they from members of the Swan Valley Nyungah Community?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** So they have -

**Mr Mumme:** No, no, no - the East Metropolitan District Aboriginal Community. As I said, there are five distinct groups within Midland - the ones who do not care, Lockridge, Cullacabardee, Saunders Street and the local community within the actual area of our district.

[8.00 pm.]

Most of this information came from members of the MAAG committee, people just living and working as normal people out in the suburbs, and relying on the information that was given to our Aboriginal police liaison officers. Basically that is why I put in "it would appear". I would not substantiate that those issues were still the main concerns in the camp, because I really did not know.

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** This document also states -

However the number of itinerants moving in and out of the campsite and the current . . . management structure of the community there remains a concern, which can apparently only be remedied at a political level.

What do you think of that statement?

**Mr Mumme:** I will state from the start that the action that occurred with Mr Bropho moving out of the camp, I do not have any issues with that at all. All we could do as police was actually manage the damage, I suppose, if you want to put it that way, but the main concern with a camp is management of that camp. That can only be done at a government level, whether or not it is by the Department of Indigenous Affairs who are virtually only consultants - that is how they term themselves. The land is a specific piece of land which I understand is granted to them for whatever use, but there is nothing the police can do. It had to be done at government level - some form of action to get the management right. My main criticism with all these Aboriginal camps is self-determination or whatever; people do need training to manage themselves. Specifically I was not seeing that done. Well, in some areas it was and in some areas it was not.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Is it your understanding that the main issues in the Aboriginal community are still alcohol, drugs, sexual abuse and domestic violence? Does that apply to other parts?

**Mr Mumme:** It does, yes. I suppose in hindsight, looking at that paragraph, even though it does specifically talk about the camp, it does apply to all camps - specifically the Cullacabardee camp where the management structure is virtually non-existent.

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** I want to be clear about that. You did say that there are significant issues at Cullacabardee. However, in describing Cullacabardee, it says -

. . . there is no anecdotal evidence to support any child abuse or substance abuse from the current residents. Most are elderly with alcohol issues.

**Mr Mumme:** Where is that?

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** That is what it says about Cullacabardee "Proposed actions/solutions". It seems to me that this document specifically targets proposed actions and solutions relating to Swan Valley. Is there a distinction? It would appear that the main issues are still sexual abuse and domestic violence.

**Mr Mumme:** That is from all the information I received. You must remember it is unsubstantiated information.

**Hon LOUISE PRATT:** From what kind of people will you receive that information? Who would give you that kind of feedback, that they were the issues at the camp? How do you have those conversations with people?

**Mr Mumme:** The MAAG committee. We used to meet once every fortnight. I suppose from 1997 through to the actual preparation of this document, which was in 2003 - the MAAG committee folded in roughly 2002 - it was roughly four and a half or five years contact with the Aboriginal

people and the community, because specifically at the MAAG committee I would be speaking with government workers. I would get a lot of information, but even to this day a lot of the information has not proved anything to me, but they had their suspicions. I am aware that some had their own agendas, but in relation to the problems with the Aboriginal people what I said there is pretty well correct. Those are their main issues.

**The CHAIRMAN:** It is a bit difficult to look at something if you have not seen it for a while, but would you have a look at the last paragraph?

**Mr Mumme:** That is right across the State, that cone of silence. Very few Aboriginal people are prepared to stand up and be counted in relation to child abuse - very few - but I think that is statewide. That is something I noticed with the Ugle family, the death of those two children. A lot of issues were going to come out of that, but once Adrian Ugle said that is going to happen, that is exactly what did happen right across the entire Ugle clan in WA. So there is a form of control by the recognised elders. It is very hard for people to speak out against their elders. That is my belief, anyway.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** I want to get one point of clarification from you. In response to one of the chairman's questions about the closure of the camp you made the point that these were your personal views, and we have accepted that, but you said something to the effect that you work on the principle of police action according to a forward plan. Was part of your concern about the closure of the Swan Valley camp that there had not been sufficient formal forward planning?

**Mr Mumme:** I had a personal opinion. I must stress this, and I will probably get in trouble for saying it, but I do not think they had a plan. I really do not think they had a plan.

**The CHAIRMAN:** If you are worried about it, you are obliged to give us your opinion, and anybody who gets you into trouble actually commits a contempt of Parliament. I would like to make that quite clear. It would be a criminal offence and a contempt of Parliament for you to have any retribution as a result of you giving honest evidence to this committee. You are obliged to do so, you can be punished if you do not do so but, similarly, it is a far more serious offence for anybody to in any way admonish you or reprimand you or in any way disadvantage you as a result of your having given evidence.

**Mr Mumme:** Okay. I will just qualify that statement that I did not appear to have a plan. I am used to working with A, this is the situation; B, this is the action required; if that occurs we need to do that, or if that occurs we need to consider that, and all those things. Specifically, if you are going to displace people, you must have a plan as to where they go. I did not see any planning of such a nature.

[8.10 pm]

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** For example, when you learnt about the closure of the camp and, therefore, that this was the situation, did you take any action to minimise what might become a police incident in the Lockridge camp?

**Mr Mumme:** Apart from personal discussions with Robert Bropho to make sure that we would know about any intended action and could properly plan for, I did undertake those actions to establish whether a larger policing presence would be required.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** Do you mean in discussions with Robert Bropho?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** As the responsible police officer, did you have a strategy in place?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** In response to something which, in your position as a responsible police officer, you felt was inadequately prepared? I am sorry, I am putting words into your mouth, am I not?

**Mr Mumme:** I think it could have been done better. Put it this way, any police operation I am involved with undergoes meticulous planning. Those plans are reviewed and we debrief at the end of it to make sure that if we made any boo-boos, we would try not to repeat them. If we failed to do something or failed to consider something occurring, that is a failure of the plan. You keep continually reviewing it. That is the way I operated in the Army and that is the way I operate in the Police Service. That is the way we are trained. When the last meeting took place, I understood that there would be a lead-up time before it actually happened. It happened the next day without my knowledge. I considered I was one of the main players with the police. Anyway, that is how it occurred. I had concerns that adequate planning was not in place to provide temporary accommodation or whatever for those people who were displaced. It was left to occur as it occurred.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** To your knowledge, has there been any interaction between the Midland police district officers and the former residents of the Swan Valley Nyungah Community since their displacement?

**Mr Mumme:** There have been some visits. As I said, there were instances when reporters were sneaking through bushes trying to take photographs of Henley Brook and the police were called to attend. A dog was shot and police were called out to attend to that. There have been other instances but, as I said, since October I do not know what the score is.

**Hon JON FORD:** I want to explore the planning issue. How much notice had you been given that the Government was moving to close down the camp?

**Mr Mumme:** I had none. Do you mean from the time it was determined that we attend the camp that day and do the job?

**Hon JON FORD:** Yes.

**Mr Mumme:** I had no knowledge. I was at that meeting and I left that meeting to make some inquiries at Henley Brook to find out the exact number of people who were displaced. As it turned out, I was called on another matter, so an inspector and Sergeant Clarysse did that task. I did not receive any information from them on in relation to the action being planned for the next day. I was not the acting superintendent at the time. Specifically, I was not the inspector responsible for the Kiara Police Station. I think there was a bit of miscommunication. There was nothing sinister in it.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I do not think there is in the whole thing.

**Hon JON FORD:** As far as you are aware, were no approaches made by the Police Service to the Department of Indigenous Affairs or the Department for Community Development, or vice versa? Was there no communication between what the DCD saw and the Police Service? Members of the DCD told the committee that the DCD had a plan for putting these people into residences and we were told that the plan did not eventuate because people went off and did the obvious.

**Mr Mumme:** Representatives from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet dealt with the police hierarchy, specifically the assistant commissioner in the metropolitan area, who I think was Tim Atherton at the time. The district did its bit. However, there were two separate forms of advice. They may have had a plan, but I certainly did not see a plan discussed at any of those meetings in relation to what would happen if just Robert, Harvey and Herbert and their families were to be removed from the camp or what would happen if the whole camp was to be moved. We were virtually planning for the unknown all the time. We did not know exactly what was going to occur at the camp. We knew one thing for certain: Robert Bropho was going.

**Hon JON FORD:** Do you think that communication might have occurred at a higher level?



**Mr Mumme:** I believe there was.

**Hon JON FORD:** But not at the doing end of the chain.

**Mr Mumme:** At the doing end - specifically the people at the pointy end of the departments, not the CEOs, but the people who go to the camp - there was a gap between the people who I have dealt with, the police hierarchy and the government departments.

**Hon JON FORD:** How would you generally describe the communication between the government agencies that service people who find themselves in these situations and the Police Service?

**Mr Mumme:** Historically, throughout my police career the police have always had a fairly good relationship with DCD. The Midland district has a very good relationship with the Department of Education. These all are partnerships we have actively developed. Of course, it requires reciprocation from the other side. Overall, statewide, some areas work very well and some areas do not. You have to forge those partnerships yourself. It relies very much on the individuals in those areas. I think that some departments are affected by confidentiality and secrecy provisions more than others. Superintendent Parkinson said that if it would make a difference, we would release information. That is how we worked. We probably put our necks out a few times, but at least we got things done. Other superintendents I have worked under had a different view.

**Hon JON FORD:** Is there no formal policy or procedural arrangement on how agencies communicate to the Police Service what they are doing?

**Mr Mumme:** We are developing memoranda of understandings from time to time.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That is what the Aboriginal Cyclic Offending program is about.

**Mr Mumme:** Yes. There are some issues there. The cross-flow of information post-Gordon report is probably a lot better than it had been.

[8.20 pm]

Pre the Gordon report, I do not think it was as good as it should have been. Specifically, a lot of the information that I dealt with in my briefing note, which talks about these 10 new reports and all that sort of stuff, I was actually surprised on the day to hear that, because if there are any issues that point to serious domestic violence or sexual abuse, I think we should know about it. You can only go on what has been reported to you or what has been actually conveyed to you. If I can just talk about domestic violence, we have pioneered a partnership with DCD on domestic violence, where we have actually put three officers in there to work with it. We share a lot of the information, but it took a long, concerted and hard push to get people to work there and share that information. There still is a "you do not need to know that" attitude, or whatever, but that is a problem across government departments.

**Hon JON FORD:** Everyone I have spoken to gives you accolades for being proactive in trying to get things done. I suppose what I am trying to find out from you is what you see as the greatest impediments to good communication between agencies and how, using this particular example, it could have been better handled from a communications perspective.

**Mr Mumme:** I think personally that the workers on the ground - I do not include myself here, because I am part of management, but the specific people like Sergeant Clarysse and the Aboriginal government workers, who actually get in there and have a bit more intimate knowledge - they are the people who need to be advising the community. We worry about numbers and dollars and overtime and stuff like that, but the actual making of the plan should come from the people on the ground who are dealing with those people. That is my own personal concern. I certainly do not plan for the Easter weekend. I get a sergeant to do that, or a senior constable - someone who knows what is going on out there and has contact.

**Hon JON FORD:** If you were presented with the problem that you have heard that this particular camp is a den of iniquity and there is a huge amount of child abuse and domestic violence and all

the rest of the claims that have been made, and if the agencies at that working level that you are talking about had been asked to come up with a solution, do you think they would have come up with a different solution to the one that was finally agreed to at a directors' level?

**Mr Mumme:** The one that came up at the directors' level, I suppose, was the removal of the people from the camp, but because of how it was done, and the consequences of the fallout, if I might say so, on, say, Henley Brook, it might have had a different outcome.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I think what we are asking is if you had been given cross-agency control and I had said to you that you can deal with all of the people in all of the agencies out there who are at the pointy end, as you put it, and you can delegate the tasks to Sergeant Clarysse or some senior constable to do something, do you think that is something that, given that authority, would be capable of being addressed by that sort of group?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Do you have any idea as to what sort of solution they might have come up with?

**Mr Mumme:** I think probably a housing solution. If the decision was to ultimately close the camp and remove all the -

**The CHAIRMAN:** I think you are jumping one question ahead. Assuming that no decision has been made to that effect, but you have been told that there is a problem out there and we want you to deal with it, and you can tell all these people at the pointy end that they are part of the plan, and you can get them all together in a room and make them come up with an answer, have you any idea what sort of answer you could have come up with at a local level if you had been Inspector Mumme in charge of the combined government agencies?

**Mr Mumme:** Basically through the district agency working group we had those tools there already. We had the attention of the local managers. It was a district problem. There could have been a district solution. Even though that forum was chaired by the police, it was a pretty good forum to initiate -

**The CHAIRMAN:** All you needed was the authority to do it?

**Mr Mumme:** Yes.

**The CHAIRMAN:** That was the sort of thing that MAAG was trying to do at a very low level. That was the sort of thing that the Aboriginal cycle of offending program was trying to give authority to. Obviously there is resistance, usually from that middle to high management level. Given the theory, it is not a bad way of dealing with it, but it does not always happen, does it?

**Mr Mumme:** No. If we are talking about that particular program, it received wholehearted support from the police and myself and the crime prevention unit. The Justice Department had a fair bit of input. The Education Department had a bit of input. There was not much interest elsewhere. It was just a program to -

**The CHAIRMAN:** Everyone thought it was a bit of a nuisance.

**Mr Mumme:** It failed because of inaction. It had a good chance of working, that program, because we had a captive audience. Even up to the bitter end, there was only myself and a representative from the Justice Department. We were the sole participants at a meeting. It was something that should have received a lot more support and that probably would have dealt with those very issues at the camp.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** Did the Midland implementation group for the Gordon report have the potential to come up with a workable solution to the problem?

**Mr Mumme:** Knowing the energy of Sergeant Clarysse, I have no doubt that he and his co-committee members could have done so. I am not part of that committee, but I believe the secret is

that they have got access to those people. When you are communicating with a group of people, naturally things will progress. I think the lack of communication with Bropho's camp, I suppose even by the police prior to 1998, and other government departments, probably since the actual audit, has probably contributed a lot to those problems. There is a lack of knowledge, I suppose, particularly of what is actually going on in the camp. The police do not operate on unsubstantiated evidence. We have got to have a complaint. I think there would be a lot of information that would probably go to government departments but is not actually substantiated.

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** Is it fair to say that since the Gordon report, at the local level progress was being made towards resolving some of the problems?

**Mr Mumme:** It was. Mr Bropho actually sent a fax. I do not know where the fax is, but I remember that it went to various government departments, with a cc to everyone, including, I believe, possibly even the Parliament, but I was the only one who responded to it.

[8.30 pm]

**Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON:** Did the action by the CEO's group that you met with before the close of the camp cut across the progress that was being made by the local officers?

**Mr Mumme:** I believe it would have, yes. I think that specifically, with that committee actually gaining access and communicating, things were starting to happen; particularly Robert Bropho was keen to demonstrate that he was cooperating with them. There were no access issues, but I imagine the job would be a bit more difficult now because, I suppose, the target group has moved on. Whether they are all still at Henley Brook, I do not know; they could have disbursed elsewhere. They were the actual affected group targeted, plus the other communities as well. It would have made it difficult.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Did you smooth the way for the audit? You did not attend the audit, as I understand it, but did you speak to Mr Bropho to let him know it was going to happen?

**Mr Mumme:** I remember that Superintendent Parkinson received information. He told me what he had to do, the time and who - there was not much notice sort of thing. I did not take part in it, no.

**The CHAIRMAN:** You did not go to Mr Bropho and say that it was going to happen. You mentioned that with some of these things you went there beforehand but you did not do that?

**Mr Mumme:** No.

**[The committee took evidence in private]**

**Committee adjourned at 8.49 pm**