

Herald Sun *We're for you*

CENSORED

The world is reading a very important story that is relevant to Victorians. The Herald Sun is prevented from publishing details of this significant news.

But trust us, it's a story you deserve to read.

MYKI FARES CLIMBING

DAILY myki fares will rise to \$8.80 and annual pass holders will be slugged an extra \$35 when public transport fares increase at the start of the new year.

Commuters will see the cost of their trips jump by 2.2 per cent — the rate of inflation — from January 1.

It is believed to be the lowest fare increase for public transport in four years and

KIERAN ROONEY

comes after a 4.7 per cent rise in fares last year.

Concession card holders will pay half price for their tickets and students will also have access to discounts when rules for concessions are made simpler for families.

In regional towns, bus fares will remain unchanged. **FULL STORY, PAGE 3**

MOVIES OF THE YEAR



Police to be grilled

ANTHONY DOWSLEY

A FALSIFIED statement bolstering the case that two gunmen fired on slain police Gary Silk and Rodney Miller will be key to public hearings ordered by the corruption watchdog.

The bombshell announcement by the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission yesterday, putting the spotlight on the actions of police and senior detectives, is the latest twist in a 20-year saga.

At least three officers who made statements and testified about Senior Constable Miller's "dying declaration", as well as senior police who oversaw the murder investigation, are set to be called to the public hearings.

The IBAC probe began after the *Herald Sun* found a police statement, buried for 19 years.

CONTINUED PAGE 6

Care is a click away

Website for parents 'a game-changer'

A NEW website to make it easier for parents to find the childcare service best for them will be launched today.

The Childcare Finder, touted as a TripAdvisor-style innovation, will enable parents to search for vacancies in local long day care, family day care, in-home care and outside-school care services.

Parents will be able to tailor search criteria to specific needs, such as nappies, lunches and longer hours, and will see on a map, in real time, which centres are available. Pricing information, and how centres rate against others in regard to the National Quality Framework, will also be available.

Push notifications can be set up to alert parents when a preferred service is available.

Eventually, parents will be able to book into a centre direct from the website.

Human Services Minister Michael Keenan said the new service was a "game changer" for parents needing childcare.

"It is also another great example of how the Coalition's digital transformation efforts are harnessing the latest technology to deliver better quality services," he said.

Minister for Education Dan Tehan said busy parents would welcome the new service.

"A one-stop shop where the information is easy to use and easy to understand will help parents make informed choices about where to send their kids," he said.

LANAI SCARR

According to the latest figures, 897,880 families have at least one child in an approved childcare facility, 1,302,940 children nationally attend some form of childcare.

The government said the development of the new website was part of a \$6 million investment. The website replaces mychild.gov.au which many experts said was outdated, not user-friendly and lacking essential features.

The CEO of Early Childhood Australia, Sam Page, said while the site was an improvement, more needed to be done.

"Ideally, you should be able to search along travel routes to work and put in a more nuanced request," she said.

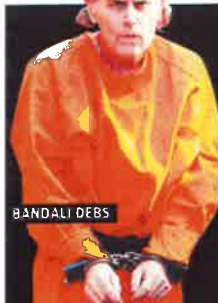
Executive director of The Parenthood, Alys Gagnon, praised the new site, saying: "Anything that simplifies that process is a good thing."

But the vice-president of the Australian Childcare Alliance, Neshia Hutchinson, wondered whether the money spent on the website might have been better spent elsewhere, saying "\$6 million would have meant a lot to families coming up to Christmas who are struggling with costs".

"It is also going to cost a lot of money to keep the website technologically relevant and up to date," she said.

lanai.scarr@news.com.au

childcarefinder.gov.au



AUG 16, 1998
Sgt Gary Silk and Senior Constable Rodney Miller, staking out a Chinese restaurant in Moorabbin as part of an armed robbery inquiry, are shot dead after pulling over a blue Hyundai.

NOV 1999 TO AUG 2000
Victoria Police secretly bug murder suspects Bandall, Debs and Jason Roberts.

JUL 25, 2000
Debs and Roberts are arrested. Police charge Debs, Roberts is released but is charged on August 15.

DEC 31, 2002
Debs and Roberts are found guilty in the Supreme Court after a four-month trial. Appeals are rejected.

DEC 2012
The then Director of Public Prosecutions, John Champion, SC, meets veteran homicide detective Sen-Sgt Ron Iddles, instigating a review of Roberts' conviction for the murders.

DEC 2013
The Operation Rainmaker report by Sen-Sgt Iddles to the Office of Public Prosecution casts doubt over Roberts' conviction. Sen-Sgt Iddles finds that on the basis of probability, Roberts was not at the crime scene.



WHAT WAS ADDED TO SENIOR CONSTABLE GLENN PULLIN'S STATEMENT

In reference to a conversation with a dying Senior Constable Rodney Miller: "I also asked him, 'Were they in a car or on foot?' And he replied: 'They were on foot.' I asked him, 'How long ago did it happen?' And he replied: 'Couple of minutes.' Miller was quite obviously in pain so I didn't ask him any more questions. I tried to comfort him."

The second statement was made about the time of the arrests of Roberts and Debs in 2000, but was doctored to look like the original made just a few hours after the shootings in 1998.

SILK-MILLER POLICE FACE A PUBLIC GRILLING

FROM PAGE 1
Commissioner Robert Redlich, QC, will preside, and Jack Rush, QC, will be counsel assisting, at the public hearings in February.

Mr Redlich said: "The public hearings are necessary to examine a range of concerning practices allegedly used by Victoria Police officers, including during the investigation of the Silk-Miller murders, and to determine if these police practices are still continuing. If these concerning practices are still used by Victoria Police, they have the potential to impact on the integrity of criminal investigations and the delivery of justice."

A statement by Senior Constable Glenn Pullin, taken on the morning of

August 16, 1998, shootings in Cochrans Rd, Moorabbin, did not refer to multiple offenders. A second statement, understood to have been taken almost two years later by Sergeant George Buchhorn, includes several sentences said to have been uttered by the dying officer Miller, including that "they were on foot".

Both were stamped as having been witnessed by then homicide detective Charlie Bezzina at 4.25am on August 16, 1998, four hours after the shootings. It is believed Mr Bezzina was duped into signing a second statement without being told of its contents, or that his signature was duplicated.

The buried original statement was obtained by the Herald Sun. Its emergence

sparked the then attorney-general, Martin Pakula, to invite Jason Roberts, one of the two men convicted, to re-submit his petition for mercy.

Mr Pakula, who denied the petition in 2017, later ordered that part of Roberts' case be examined by the Supreme Court — a process now under way.

The hearings will focus on how detectives investigating the Silk-Miller murders prepared their brief of evidence and took witness statements, and whether there was "full disclosure" of those statements and other "relevant" material at, or before, the trial of the men convicted of the murders — Roberts and Bandali Debs.

Mr Redlich said the hearings were not a "reopening" of the murder

case, or a review of the convictions of Roberts and Debs, who were jailed for life.

A Victoria Police spokeswoman yesterday said it would fully co-operate with the hearings. "Victoria Police stands by the investigation conducted by Taskforce Lorimer and maintains confidence in the convictions it achieved," she said.

Among the many officers who could now be called to give evidence are: former officer Pullin, Helen Poke and Colin Clarke, who testified to Senior Constable Miller's dying words; Silk-Miller investigation heads Paul Sheridan, now a detective superintendent, and Inspector Graeme Collins; as well as former Det Sgt Buchhorn.

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MAR 2015

Former police officer Glenn Pullin — who comforted the mortally wounded Sen-Constable Miller — tells Sen-Sgt Iddles he had altered the statement he made hours after the murders. The additional material had indicated there was more than one offender.

LATER IN 2015

The Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission investigates circumstances surrounding statements by officers who attended to Sen-Constable

Miller. IBAC does not make adverse findings after Mr Pullin testifies he lied to Sen-Sgt Iddles about having made a second statement.

MAR 2017

The then attorney-general, Martin Pakula, denies Roberts' petition for mercy, rejecting the initial recommendations by the Department of Justice and independent legal advice to refer the case to court and asking for, and relying on, a Victoria Police submission. He has since refused to release the documents.

JULY 2017

The *Herald Sun* reveals a police interview with Roberts' ex-girlfriend, Nicole Debs, which corroborates Roberts' alibi that he was with her at home on the night of the murders.

LATE 2017

The *Herald Sun* obtains a copy of Mr Pullin's buried original police statement from a high-level whistleblower, and shows it to Mr Iddles.



HERALD SUN, NOVEMBER 21, 2017

NOV 20, 2017

Mr Iddles takes the document to IBAC.

NOV 21, 2017

The *Herald Sun* reveals a police statement made by Mr Pullin, critical to convicting Roberts, was altered and presented as the original at the trial. Meanwhile, Mr Pakula invites Roberts' lawyers to re-petition him, based on the fresh evidence found by the *Herald Sun*.

LATER IN NOV 2017

IBAC launches Operation Gloucester, its second probe into Victoria Police conduct during the Silk-Miller murder investigation.

YESTERDAY

IBAC says Operation Gloucester will hold public hearings on the taking of witness statements, the preparation of the brief of evidence, and whether full disclosure was made to the defence.

Dark secrets haunted cop

Shot officer's dying words at heart of probe

FORMER cop Glenn Pullin had carried the burden of a dark secret for too long.

He was among the first to find and comfort the dying Rodney Miller, shot just after midnight on August 16, 1998, in Cochrans Rd, Moorabbin.

Senior Constable Miller had been on a stakeout with Sergeant Gary Silk to find two armed robbers. They pulled over a car that suspiciously entered and left the carpark of the Silky Emperor Restaurant. Sgt Silk was killed instantly.

For Pullin, comforting a dying man, and later that morning bursting through a door he thought the gunman may have been hiding behind, has forever affected his mental health. He had long been out of the force when he unburdened himself of a secret he had told few, if any, since that fateful day.

In 2015, in a phone call to veteran detective and new police union boss Ron Iddles, Pullin came clean about his statements about what he had heard a dying Miller say. He admitted his second statement was the only one in the brief of

ANTHONY DOWSLEY

evidence. The original did not effectively exist.

Only a few members of Victoria Police knew there were two statements.

His confession — that he had been part of a conspiracy to add to his statement pivotal words of Miller — will be central to February's public hearings by the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission.

A series of statements taken, and presented, by the Silk-Miller investigators have already been the focus of a year-long investigation.

But Pullin's confession was followed by his equally stunning backflip on it, and a breathtakingly fumbled police corruption probe, in 2015.

A *Herald Sun* investigation not only uncovered the buried original Pullin statement, it substantiated his confession.

The unearthed doctored statement also set in motion another bid for freedom by one of the men convicted of the murders, Jason Roberts.

Its emergence resulted in Roberts, whose petition for mercy was denied in controversial circumstances months earlier, getting his case back to court. The genesis of this dates to a 2012 meeting between the then Director of Public Prosecutions John Champion, also attended by Iddles.

After the meeting, Iddles was tasked by Victoria Police to review Roberts' conviction and several other claims he had made.

The following year, in an extensive report, Iddles found that on the basis of probability, Roberts had not been at the Silk-Miller murder scene.

During Iddles' review, investigators used parking tickets to find Roberts' ex-girlfriend, Nicole Debs, daughter of his co-accused Bandali Debs. She was asked where Roberts was when the Silk-Miller murders occurred.

In a taped police interview, she said he was at home with her, in bed, sleeping.

Ms Debs, who had not seen Roberts for seven years, had supported an alibi given by Roberts months earlier.

This caused upheaval within police ranks. Iddles has since been investigated, and cleared, by the police force for his conduct over the review.

Now the whole force, not just those in the Silk-Miller investigation, are in the cross-hairs of IBAC.

Police and their fairness in taking statements and disclosing "relevant" material will be probed in public hearings by Commissioner Robert Redlich and counsel assisting.

The next hearing in the Roberts case is in the Supreme Court tomorrow.

Debs, a cold-blooded killer, was always going to be convicted of the heinous crime. Placing Roberts at the scene was a more difficult task. And Pullin was an important link in establishing that.

Now, only questions remain: what were Miller's dying words?

And how high up in the force did knowledge of the doctored statement about his last words go?



JASON ROBERTS



If these concerning practices are still used by Victoria Police, they have the potential to impact the integrity of criminal investigations and the delivery of justice

IBAC COMMISSIONER ROBERT REDLICH, QC

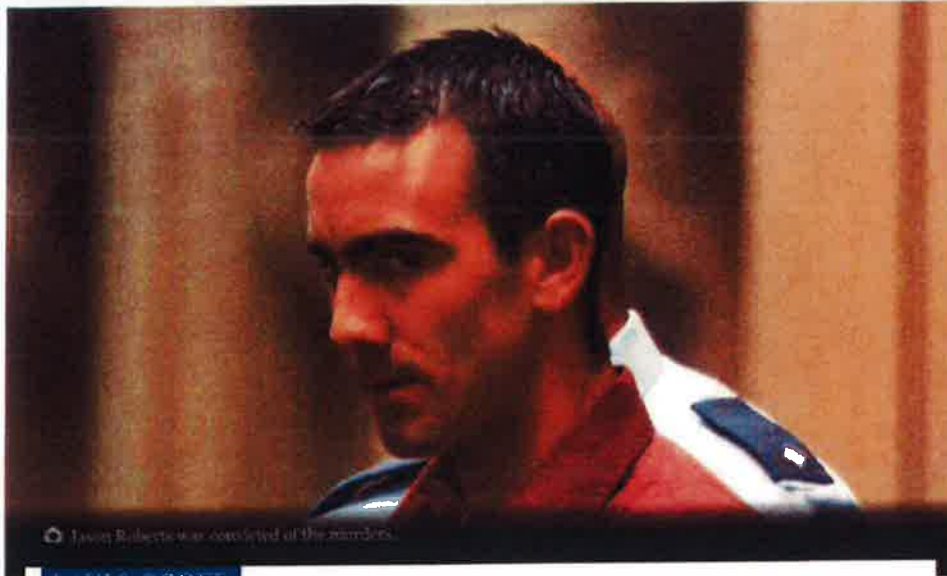
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Jason Roberts was convicted of the murders.

LAW & ORDER

IBAC to hold public hearings into taking of police statements in the Silk Miller police murder case

Anthony Dowsley, Herald Sun

December 12, 2018 9:08pm

Subscriber only



A falsified statement bolstering the case that two gunmen fired on slain police Gary Silk and Rodney Miller will be key to public hearings ordered by the corruption watchdog.

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At least three officers who made statements and testified about Senior Constable Miller's "dying declaration", as well as senior police who oversaw the murder investigation, codenamed Lorimer, are set to be called to the public hearings.

READ MORE: DOUBT ON DYING WORDS

ROBERTS 'NOT THERE', IDDLES CONCLUDES

The IBAC probe began after the *Herald Sun* found a police statement, buried for 19 years.

LAW & ORDER TRUE CRIME AUSTRALIA CRIME STOPPERS

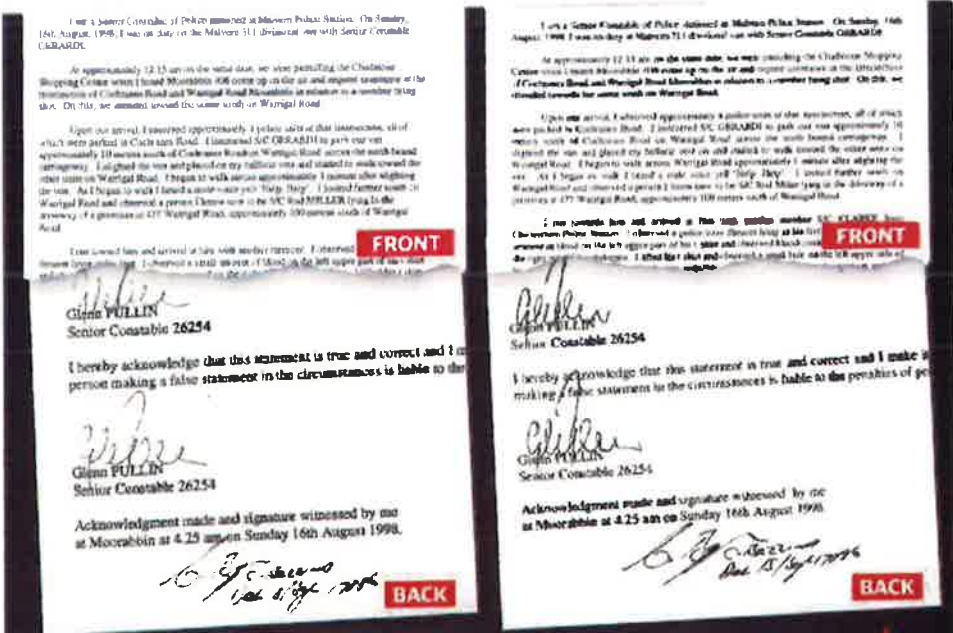


Sen-Constable Rodney Miller



Sgt Gary Silk

LAW & ORDER TRUE CRIME AUSTRALIA CRIME STOPPERS



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📷 Police near the scene on Warrigal Rd.



📷 The scene of the murder. Picture: Andrew Batsch

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A Victoria Police spokeswoman said the force would fully co-operate with the IBAC hearings.

"Victoria Police stands by the investigation conducted by Taskforce Lorimer and maintains confidence in the convictions it achieved," the spokeswoman said in a statement on Wednesday.

"While the IBAC inquiry is underway it would be inappropriate to comment further."

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