With endorsements to 9 Oct 2026 (55)

OPEN MEMORANDUM

to

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from

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DNA and false confession evidence warrant an inquiry into the 1990 conviction and life sentence of Stephen 'Shorty' Jamieson

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1 SUMMARY: A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY AND FALSE CONFESSION?

Stephen 'Shorty' Jamieson was given a life sentence in 1990 on the basis of a verbal confession the prosecution claimed he had made during a police interview. Jamieson has consistently maintained his innocence, claiming he was mistaken for another man, also nicknamed 'Shorty', and the confession used to convict him was false.

Since 2003, multiple DNA tests on the black bandana used to gag the victim have excluded Jamieson, while indicating the presence of an unknown male. Evidence suggests this male could be Mark 'Shorty' Wells, alleged to have been present during the crime, and known to wear a black bandana. A 2025 ruling of the Supreme Court of NSW confirmed the importance of testing the bandana DNA against Wells' DNA profile.[1] To date, however, no comparison tests have been released.

Fresh, compelling linguistic evidence, outlined in this memorandum, adds weight to Jamieson's claim of false confession.

We now request the Attorney-General to:

a) Release results of any DNA tests on the black bandana since 2025.
b) Release the DNA profile of Mark 'Shorty' Wells to Jamieson's nominated DNA testing facility so that the most effective comparison tests can be carried out.
c) Ensure the sentence 'He used to wear a bandana' is removed from Paragraph 10 of the Supreme Court's 2025 ruling (above). This is highly misleading, and detrimental to Jamieson's case. It was Mark 'Shorty' Wells, not Stephen 'Shorty' Jamieson, who was known to wear a black bandana.
d) Release the full report of the Police Integrity Commission's *Operation Cerduna* to Jamieson's lawyers (see Section 2.6 below).
e) Prioritise an independent inquiry into the reliability of the confession attributed to Jamieson in his 1990 trial, taking advice from interdisciplinary experts in the well-established research field of false confession, especially its linguistic aspects.

2 BRIEF TIMELINE OF RELEVANT EVENTS

2.1 1990: Jamieson convicted chiefly on police claims that his repudiated confession captured the exact words he spoke during interview

In 1988, Stephen 'Shorty' Jamieson was arrested for the NSW abduction, rape and murder of Janine Balding. In 1990, he was sentenced to life in prison – despite four of the real perpetrators indicating he was 'the wrong Shorty'. They all testified that the man with them when they committed the crimes was not Jamieson.[2]

Police acknowledged that, when they apprehended Jamieson, they had:

> nothing to directly link Stephen Wayne Jamieson with the murder of Jeanine [sic] Balding, other than he bore the nickname Shorty and he was extremely short in stature.[3]

Later, DNA evidence from the victim's body eliminated Jamieson, while identifying his co-accused. No fingerprints or other forensic traces implicated Jamieson. Eyewitness evidence was weak to the point of non-existence.

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1 *Jamieson v Attorney General for NSW* [2025] NSWSC 92 (24 Feb 2025 ruling following 13 Dec 2024 hearing)
2 Transcript of Proceedings, *R v Blessington, Elliot and Jamieson* (Supreme Court of New South Wales, Newman J, 12-13, 18 June 1990) 369, 461, 655, 668 ('*Trial transcript*').
3 Transcript of Proceedings, *R v Blessington, Elliot and Jamieson* (Local Court of New South Wales. Waller SM, 21 November 1988) 12 ('*Committal transcript*').

Jamieson was convicted chiefly on the basis of a confession contained in a 'verbatim record of interview', typed by one detective while the other asked questions. Jamieson signed the confession, but repudiated it as soon as the interview was over. Cross-examining the detectives, Jamieson's counsel cast doubt on the reliability of the 'verbatim record', especially three long confessional narratives. However, the detectives testified on oath that they had captured Jamieson's exact words, e.g.

> **Counsel**: Are you saying that those words were recorded exactly as Jamieson said it?
> **Lead detective**: Yes, I am saying that.[4]

In order to convict Jamieson, the jury must have accepted police testimony that the 'verbatim record of interview' was a reliable record of a genuine confession.

2.2 1993: High Court comments foreshadow need for 'further consideration'

In 1991, just six months after Jamieson's sentencing, the High Court of Australia delivered its landmark ruling in *McKinney*,[5] recognising the risk of convictions based chiefly on a confession. When Jamieson's 1992 appeal to the Supreme Court failed,[6] he applied for special leave to appeal to the High Court. His application was refused:

> … on the material before this Court there is no question of law raised which justifies the grant of special leave to appeal. Accordingly special leave to appeal is refused.[7]

However, the High Court Justices, perhaps mindful of *McKinney*, also commented:

> … the conviction of the applicant depends chiefly upon the reliability of his confessional statements. For that reason the respondent correctly acknowledges that if further evidence comes to hand with respect to the authorship of the answers to the record of interview, it may well be necessary for further consideration to be given to this case ….[8]

Section 4 below provides just such 'further evidence' that has indeed 'come to hand'.

2.3 1995: Official recognition of prevalence of 'verballing' in NSW

In the mid-1990s, long-standing[9] concerns about the prevalence of 'verballing' (police fabricating 'verbal confessions' via uncorroborated 'verbatim records of interview'), were officially acknowledged in NSW via the Wood Royal Commission.[10]

In 1995, mandatory electronic recording of interviews was legislated. This, along with introduction of investigative interviewing, designed to determine facts not just extract a confession, has reduced allegations of verballing to near zero.

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4 *Trial transcript* (n 2) (6 June 1990) 278.

5 *McKinney v The Queen* (1991) 171 CLR. Also on 26 June 1990, days after Jamieson's conviction, the Queensland Court of Criminal Appeal set aside Kelvin Condren's 1983 murder conviction, obtained on the basis of a falsified 'verbatim record of interview': Sir S M Bingham, *Report of the investigation into the complaints of Kelvin Ronald Condren and others*. (Criminal Justice Commission, QLD, 1992) <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-the-Assembly/Tabled-Papers/docs/4792t568/4792t568.pdf >.

6 Jamieson, Elliot & Blessington v The Queen (1992) 60 A Crim R 68.

7 Transcript of Proceedings, *Jamieson v The Queen* (High Court, Brennan J, 11 February 1993) 29.

8 Ibid.

9 See e.g., Law Reform Commission, *Criminal Investigation* (Report no 2, Interim, 1975) 63 [141] https://www.alrc.gov.au/publication/criminal-investigation-alrc-report-2/ ('ALRC, 1975').

10 *Royal Commission into the New South Wales Police Service* (Final Report, May 1997) vol 1 https://www.lecc.nsw.gov.au/publications/police-integrity-archived-reports/wood-royal-commission-reports ('*Wood Royal Commission*').

2.4 2001: Justice James, reviewing application for inquiry into conviction, acknowledges confession was not exact words

In 2001, Jamieson submitted an application for inquiry into his conviction.[11] This included expert linguistic analysis by Dr (now Associate Professor) Rod Gardner. Gardner demonstrated many ways in which the language in the 'verbatim record of interview' differed from the reliable transcript of a 1995 electronically-recorded interview of Jamieson by another officer.[12]

On this basis, Gardner concluded it was 'extremely unlikely' that the confession attributed to Jamieson was an accurate record of words spoken by him.[13]

Justice Bruce James, sole reviewer of the application, dismissed Gardner's conclusion. In doing so, he acknowledged it was highly improbable that the 'verbatim record' captured Jamieson's words exactly. However, he attributed this to the detective being a slow typist – with the implication that the record, while not exact, nevertheless reliably captured the content of a real confession:

> It is, in my opinion, highly improbable that any typist, and especially a typist with the limited proficiency of [the typing detective] would have recorded instances of the linguistic features identified by Dr Gardner with anything approaching the same fidelity as that with which instances of those linguistic features in the interview of 6 December 1995 were captured by the use of a tape recorder to record the conversation …[14]

He also acknowledged that this conflicted with the detectives' sworn testimony. However, he excused their inaccurate testimony as 'an emphatic denial'.

> It is true that in evidence at the trial [the typing detective] asserted that he had typed the words of [the lead detective] and the applicant as spoken by them but he gave this evidence in the context of resisting an imputation that he and other police had concocted the whole interview and his evidence should, in my opinion, be understood as being an emphatic denial that the record of interview had been concocted.[15]

2.5 2003: New technology enables DNA testing on black bandana

In 2003, solicitor Peter Breen, then a NSW politician, took an interest in Jamieson's case. Technological advances had made it possible for the bandana DNA to be tested via 'low copy number' methods (able only to exclude, not to identify). Multiple tests excluded Jamieson, while indicating the presence of an unknown male.

More recently, Breen sought to have the bandana DNA compared to Wells' DNA profile (which is on police records) – reasoning that failure to exclude Wells could open the door for a new inquiry into Jamieson's conviction. However, the Crown declined to conduct the comparison test, or to release Wells' DNA profile to Jamieson for testing.

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[11] *Jamieson v The Queen* (Supreme Court of NSW, 70086/96, James J, 15 June 2001).

[12] Jamieson's 1992 appeal had also included a report purporting to demonstrate that the verbatim record was not Jamieson's words. This used a technique (CUSUM) that had been discredited as pseudoscience in linguistics since it first appeared in the 1960s. Gardner was a qualified linguist, using established techniques.

[13] Rod Gardner, 'Report on the Case of Stephen Wayne Jamieson' (Expert Report in *Jamieson v The Queen,* 23 August 1998).

[14] *Jamieson v The Queen* (Supreme Court of NSW, 70086/96, James J, 15 June 2001) [126].

[15] Ibid [127].

2.6 2008: Police Integrity Commission closes inquiry – no findings released

In 2008, the Police Integrity Commission closed a six-year private investigation (*Operation Cerduna*) into allegations of corruption in Jamieson's case, releasing no findings beyond a statement that no evidence of misconduct had been found.[16]

2.7 2011: Jamieson diagnosed with foetal alcohol spectrum disorder

A 2011 psychological report indicated that Jamieson was affected by foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. During his 1990 trial, various psychologists had reported his low scores on intelligence tests, with comments that make troubling reading from the perspective of current times.[17] Certainly Jamieson was not afforded considerations now thought appropriate for accused people with intellectual disability.[18]

2.8 2025: Supreme Court recognises need to compare bandana DNA to Wells

On 27 March 2024, Breen, on Jamieson's behalf, submitted an application to the Supreme Court of NSW seeking pre-litigation disclosure of Wells' DNA profile, and Jamieson's case was taken over by Legal Aid.

On 24 February 2025, Justice Ian Harrison issued a ruling[19] recognising the importance of having the bandana DNA compared to Wells' profile, and directed the parties to confer and bring 'short minutes of order' as to how this could be achieved.

> […] the interests of justice and the public interest in maintaining the integrity of convictions call for the testing to be undertaken. […] failure to conclude the investigation by conducting the tests and making the comparisons would in my opinion create an enduring sense of community unease.[20]

On 17 December 2025, after multiple adjournments, with no DNA test results and no release of Wells' DNA profile, Justice Harrison dismissed existing legal proceedings without prejudice. It was evidently expected that a new application for inquiry into Jamieson's conviction would soon be submitted by legal aid.

2.9 2026: Ongoing inaction, as Jamieson approaches 40 years in prison

Since December 2025, there have been no further developments in this case.

3 DNA RESULTS USEFUL – INQUIRY INTO CONFESSION ESSENTIAL

Authoritative results of appropriate tests on the bandana DNA will provide useful evidence. However, as Justice Harrison commented, these results cannot, in themselves, resolve Jamieson's claims of innocence:

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[16] 'Appeal over Balding murder may go to Chief Justice' *Sydney Morning Herald* (26 November 2009) https://www.smh.com.au/national/appeal-over-balding-murder-may-go-to-chief-justice-20091125-jrwx.html

[17] Dr John Robert Strum, 'Report on Stephen Wayne Jamieson' (Expert Report in *R v Blessington, Elliot and Jamieson* (Supreme Court of New South Wales, 91/0226/88, 6 September 1990). See also Janet Fyfe-Yeomans, 'One of Janine Balding's killers was short, ugly and the antithesis of charisma', *Sydney Morning Herald* (18 September 1990).

[18] McCarthy, J., et al. 'Defendants with intellectual disability and autism spectrum conditions: The perspective of clinicians working across three jurisdictions' (2022) 29(5) *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law*, 698. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13218719.2021.1976297>.

[19] Jamieson v Attorney General for NSW [2025] NSWSC 92.

[20] Ibid [150].

> The results of any testing or comparisons that may be made as the result of my orders taking effect will not foreclose the outcome of Mr Jamieson's Part 7 application …[21]

We therefore request the Attorney General, without waiting for DNA results, to instigate an independent, non-adversarial public inquiry into the reliability of the confessional statements that led to Jamieson's conviction and life sentence. This inquiry should take advice from interdisciplinary experts in the well-established research field of false confession, especially its linguistic aspects. Such an inquiry is justified by the considerations below (Section 4), which were not available to the 1990 jury. While these fulfil the High Court's 1993 indication that 'it may well be necessary for further consideration to be given to this case' (Section 2.2 above), they were not considered in the 2001 application for inquiry into conviction.

4 FRESH EVIDENCE REGARDING CONFESSION

4.1 Official recognition of 'verballing' gives new lens for confession evidence

Perhaps the most important new evidence relevant to Jamieson's conviction arises from official acknowledgement, at the highest levels, that 'verballing' was prevalent at the time of his 1988 arrest (Section 2.3 above).

This must change the lens through which pre-1995 convictions are viewed, as was recognised recently[22] in relation to the 1979 trials of the 'Croatian Six'. While not suggesting that new laws for recording interviews with suspects should be applied retrospectively, Justice Hulme explicitly took general evidence of police misconduct into account in reaching his decisions:

> Revelations of many disturbing police practices and procedures that had been occurring at the CIB came to light many years later, but they are relevant to the Inquiry's assessment of the conduct of the police in this case. For example, it might have appeared to be a very bold proposition for defence counsel in 1980 to contend that multiple police officers had conspired to pervert the course of justice and had given perjured evidence, but it is now readily accepted that such things did in fact occur.[23]

It is remarkable that no such recognition was given by Justice James in his 2001 ruling on Jamieson's application for inquiry into his conviction (Section 2.4 above).

4.2 Linguistic evidence dismissed in 2001 was relevant and probative

Gardner's 2001 report (Section 2.4) provided important new evidence. However Justice James noted only part of it. He evidently assumed all the differences Gardner noted were minor omissions, caused by the detective's slow typing. However, while Gardner noted[24] that slow typing could account for omission of repetitions, re-starts, etc., he also gave many examples where linguistic forms in the typed record were consistently of similar length,[25] or even longer,[26] than those of the transcribed audio.

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[21] *Jamieson v Attorney General for NSW* [2025] NSWSC 92 [150] (Harrison J).
[22] Robert Allan Hulme, *Inquiry into the Convictions of the Croatian Six* (Report, 2026) <https://croatiansixinquiry.dcj.nsw.gov.au>.
[23] Ibid 42 [134].
[24] Gardner (n 13) e.g., 9-10.
[25] Gardner (n 13) e.g., 20ff.
[26] Gardner (n 13) e.g., 11ff.

For example, the typed record has fewer incomplete sentences (common in spoken language) than the transcript from audio. Indeed the 'verbatim record' includes many wordy locutions more typical of formal written texts than natural spoken language (e.g. 'I will now introduce you to X' vs 'This is X'). As Gardner noted:

> It is unlikely that someone transcribing live, without the aid of electronic recording, would add extra words.[27]

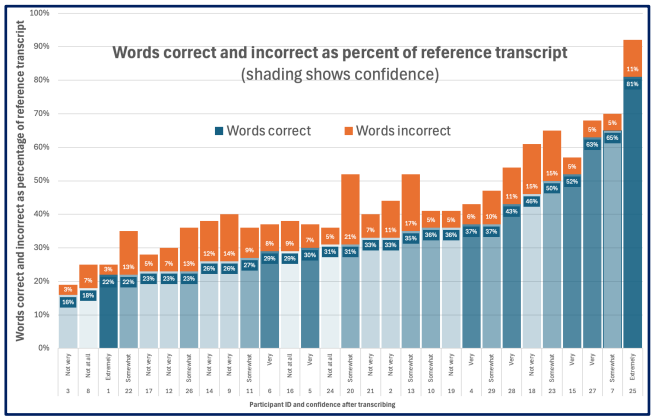
Unfortunately, Justice James seems to have missed this highly significant point.

4.3 New research shows it is impossible Jamieson's detectives captured anything remotely like the exact words of a verbal confession

While Gardner's report was relevant, reliable and probative, the nature of his analysis allowed a conclusion only to the level of 'extremely unlikely'. Recent research by the Research Hub for Language in Forensic Evidence takes a different approach, looking not at how likely it is that Jamieson would have spoken the words attributed to him, but at how possible it is that, whatever words were spoken, the typing detective could have captured them with an appropriate level of reliability. This gives a more conclusive result – and one directly at odds with the detectives' sworn testimony, the sole basis on which the jury could have reached their verdict of guilty.

Many assume, as Justice James evidently did in 2001, that, while the detectives might not have typed every word exactly, they nevertheless reliably captured the gist of a genuine confession. This fails to recognise just how little of the content of spoken language can be captured by typing in real time.

A recent experiment, simulating real-time transcription, demonstrates this. Thirty participants, reporting typing speeds of 40 to 200+ words per minute, were asked to produce a verbatim transcript of a 3-minute excerpt from the video of a recent police interview – without pausing the video. They were instructed not to attempt formatting or speaker attribution: just 'get the words down as fast as you can'.



Even the fastest participant (a live-captioning expert) captured only 80% of the words accurately. Those at the lower end got less than 20%. Importantly, even this lowest level of accuracy is far higher than could be attributed to Jamieson's detective, who produced the record of their 4-hour interview with question numbers, page headings, timestamps, etc., – all on a 1980s mechanical typewriter. Some might suggest that the detectives tidied up the record after the interview ended. This is contradicted by timestamps on the 'verbatim record' showing the interview ended at 6:32pm, and all participants had signed all seven pages by 6:34pm.

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[27] Gardner (n 13) 14.

These and other observations make it straightforwardly impossible that the 'verbatim record' captured anything remotely like Jamieson's exact words. Even if the detectives' acknowledged inaccurate testimony (Section 2.4) was merely 'an emphatic denial', that still means the 1990 jury reached their verdict on the basis of thoroughly misleading evidence. They thought they were reading the exact words of a detailed and highly incriminating confession; in fact they were reading some form of construction of the content. This raises the question of how this situation arose.

4.4 Beyond individual misconduct: The law created the conditions that enabled false confession

While the experiment above makes a useful demonstration, it is really a basic common-sense observation that normal speech passes far more quickly than any typist can get the words down. That is why producing verbatim records of official proceedings required development of shorthand. No one expects court transcripts to be produced in real time – even by skilled typists with modern equipment. This raises the question: why were detectives expected to type 'verbatim records' in real time?

The task was given them around 1912 by the UK Judges' Rules,[28] devised to ensure that verbal confessions recorded by police were voluntary and reliable. Ironically, and tragically, they had the opposite effect. While some detectives did their best to capture interview proceedings as reliably as they could, others realised an opportunity. Since the courts required only a signature to corroborate a record of interview,[29] they could include confessions that had not occurred, and omit threats, promises or inducements that had. If they isolated the suspect, it would be 'one word against another', a contest easily won by police. As the Rules influenced many jurisdictions, false confession became a global phenomenon, now well researched.[30]

4.5 Jamieson could not have signed the 'verbatim record of interview' in full understanding and voluntary acceptance of its content

Jamieson's 1990 jury were led to believe he had signed the 'verbatim record of interview' voluntarily, witnessed by a Justice of the Peace. As just noted, in general a signature does not guarantee reliability of a confession. Here, however, there are more specific reasons to distrust the appearance of the signatures.

Jamieson was isolated with the detectives until near the end of the interview, when the Justice of the Peace arrived. The JP's task was merely to read the 'verbatim

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[28] ALRC 1975 (n 9) 61 [139].

[29] 'Just as oppressive conduct can cause a suspect to make false admissions, so it can cause a suspect to sign a document containing those admissions.' (Australian Law Reform Commission, Evidence (Report No 38, June 1987) [164(b)].

[30] Criminal Case Review Commission, 'Unreliable confessions' <https://ccrc.gov.uk/unreliable-confessions/>. Note especially *Maynard* – conviction quashed when a detective's claim that he produced a handwritten verbatim record in real time was shown to be impossible (*R v Maynard and others* [2002] EWCA Crim 1942). See also Gisli H Gudjonsson,' Unreliable confessions and miscarriages of justice in Britain' (2002) 4(4) *International Journal of Police Science & Management* 332; S M Kassin et al, 'Police-induced confessions, 2.0: Risk factors and recommendations' (2025) 49(1) *Law and Human Behavior* 7; Malcolm Coulthard, 'The official version: Audience manipulation in police records of interviews with suspects' in Caldas-Coulthard & Coulthard (eds) *Texts and Practices: Readings in Critical Discourse Analysis* (Routledge, 1996) 166; Roger W Shuy, *The Language of Confession, Interrogation, and Deception* (Sage Publications, 1998).

record' back to Jamieson (who was illiterate at the time), and witness him signing it. Reading the record aloud takes about 19 minutes. Police timestamps on the record show just enough time for the reading, with no pauses for Jamieson to question or even consider the words attributed to him. This makes it hard to be sure he signed in full understanding and voluntary acceptance of the content, and its implications.

5 CONCLUSION: IT IS NOW 'NECESSARY FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO BE GIVEN TO THIS CASE', AS INDICATED BY HIGH COURT IN 1993

Jamieson was sentenced in NSW at the tail end of a long era now acknowledged to have been characterised by injustice of exactly the kind he claims to have suffered.

This in itself gives strong general grounds for an inquiry. By rights, the Crown should have instigated retrospective inquiries for all prisoners convicted under the flawed procedures in 1995, when their systemic failings were officially acknowledged. Recommendation 13 of the Fitzgerald Inquiry,[31] though technically it applies only to Queensland, surely makes ethical sense for any jurisdiction acknowledging past failings and seeking to begin a new era:

> Special consideration [should] be given for a review of the convictions of any individuals who have raised allegations of "verballing" […], who are still in prison…[32]

If the Crown believes Jamieson's 1990 jury reached the right verdict, despite the problematic confession, an inquiry is an opportunity to prove the right man is behind bars. If, on the other hand, Jamieson's was one of the many cases in which flawed procedures misled a jury into accepting a false confession as a reliable indicator of guilt, an inquiry is an opportunity to take belated responsibility for those flaws. It is unfortunate that this opportunity, needed to restore societal faith in our justice system, was missed in 2001, when Jamieson's first application was rejected in the problematic way that it was. Even more unfortunate is the Crown's ongoing failure even to consider using new techniques to evaluate the bandana DNA (Section 2.5).

Beyond these general grounds, Jamieson now has specific grounds for an inquiry into the reliability of the confession on which he was convicted. The new evidence outlined above surely fulfils the criterion the High Court, and the Crown, said would make it 'necessary for further consideration to be given to this case', by showing:

1. it is extremely unlikely that Jamieson would have spoken the words attributed to him in the 'verbatim record of interview' typed by police;
2. whatever words may or may not have been spoken during the interview, it is straightforwardly impossible that the police typed anything remotely like a reliable 'verbatim record' of those words;
3. whether or not any kind of confession was produced during the interview, there is no way to be sure that Jamieson's words were spoken without threat, promise or inducement;
4. whatever the status of the 'verbatim record', it is impossible to be sure Jamieson signed it voluntarily, with informed acceptance of its content, and in full enjoyment of his rights.

As Jamieson nears 40 years in prison, his claims of wrongful conviction warrant immediate action.

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[31] Tony Fitzgerald, Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct (Report, 1989).
[32] Ibid 386.

Endorsements for Fraser and Ruyters Open Memorandum re Stephen 'Shorty' Jamieson

No.	Name	Affiliation	Relevant background	Additional comments
1.	**Professor Paul Foulkes**	Professor of Linguistics and Phonetics, University of York; Forensic Speech Services (FoSS)	Director of postgraduate programmes in Forensic Speech Science; member of the International Association for Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics (IAFPA) ; expert witness in UK, Sweden, Ghana, New Zealand, Australia	
2.	**Dr Saskia Penn**	Lecturer, Criminology & Justice Studies, RMIT University	Criminologist & Historian; researcher on police misconduct in Australian police; tutor at the RMIT Innocence Initiative.	
3.	**Anneke Myers BA, LLB(Hons), GradDipLegalPrac**	PhD Candidate, Australian National University	Final-year PhD candidate (topic: institutional evidence-taking and accurate transcription practices). Admitted to ACT Supreme Court, accredited translator and interpreter (10 years), Hansard reporter (12 years). Professional and research expertise in spoken language interpretation and verbatim versus non verbatim transcription techniques.	
4.	**Professor Roger W. Shuy**	Distinguished Professor of Linguistics, Emeritus Georgetown University	Accepted by US courts as expert witness in 27 states	Testified before US Congress and International Criminal Tribunal
5.	**Dr Laura Smith-Khan SFHEA**	Senior Lecturer in Law, University of New England	Co-Convenor, Law and Linguistics Interdisciplinary Research Network	
6.	**Professor the Honourable Gareth Evans AC KC FASSA FAIIA**	Distinguished Honorary Professor, Australian National University	Former Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Melbourne; practising Barrister; Primary author, *Australian Law Reform Commission Report No 2 on Criminal Investigation* 1975; Attorney-General of Australia 1983-84	
7.	**Dr Elyse Methven**	Senior Lecturer, University of Technology Sydney	Expert in Law and Language	
8.	**Professor Kent Roach**	University of Toronto	Wrongful conviction scholar and co-founder Canadian Registry of Wrongful Convictions	

Endorsements for Fraser and Ruyters Open Memorandum re Stephen ‘Shorty’ Jamieson

No.	Name	Affiliation	Relevant background	Additional comments
9.	**Dr Cynthia Schneider, LLB**	Senior Lecturer, University of New England	PhD in Linguistics, LLB	
10.	**Honorary Associate Professor Rod Gardner**	The University of Queensland	I wrote the linguistic analysis of Jamieson’s record of interview for his 2001 application for inquiry into conviction	I have expertise in Conversation Analysis
11.	**Professor the Honourable Peter Ross Awdry Gray AM**	Adjunct Professor, School of Business, Entrepreneurship and Law, Swinburne University of Technology	Bachelor of Laws with First Class Honours, University of Melbourne, 1968; Bachelor of Civil Law, Oxford University, 1972; practising barrister, Victorian Bar, 1972-1984; Judge of the Federal Court of Australia 1984-2013; creator and co-teacher of LAW5443 Language, Communication and the Legal Process, 2015-; Master of Applied Linguistics, University of New England (Vice-Chancellor's Scholar), 2020; co-teacher of LAW10026 Legal Writing at Swinburne Law School, 2023-; consultant forensic linguist, including for the Judicial College of Victoria, 2024-.	Author of Peter Gray, A True Confession? (2026) Victorian Bar News, edition no 179, p 96
12.	**Dr Diana Eades FAHA**	Adjunct Professor Linguistics University of New England	Founding member of International Association of Forensic and Legal Linguistics (since 1992); former editor of International Journal of Speech Language and the Law (2006-2014); author of 4 books about language and the law; inaugural winner of the International Pragmatics Association’s Social Impact Award (2025)	over more than 35 years I have delivered invited lectures and workshops to judicial officers and lawyers in 4 states and the Northern Territory, and given expert linguistic evidence in courts and tribunals in 3 states and the Northern Territory
13.	**Emeritus Professor Brian Byrne**	University of New England	Research and teaching experience in psycholinguistics, the common ground between Psychology and Linguistics	
14.	**Professor Gary Edmond FRSN FAAL**	Professor, Law and Justice, UNSW	Chair, Evidence-based Forensics Initiative	

Endorsements for Fraser and Ruyters Open Memorandum re Stephen ‘Shorty’ Jamieson

No.	Name	Affiliation	Relevant background	Additional comments
15.	**Professor Jane Goodman-Delahunty, BA, TTHD, JD, PhD**	The University of Newcastle, Honorary Professor	Australian member of *Implemendez*, an international network devoted to implementing the United Nations Mendez *Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations*	This confession was elicited during a period when the Hon. James Wood found that "verballing was an art form within certain sections of the NSW Police Service," when corners were cut to generate false records of interviews that were accepted by the courts. The confession must be viewed with the benefit of this hindsight.
16.	**Eleanor Kettle**	PhD student and Research Assistant, Research Hub for Language in Forensic Evidence, University of Melbourne	I am currently completing a PhD in Linguistics, with my thesis topic on Forensic Transcription. As a Research Assistant with the Hub, I have also been involved in research relating to Stephen Jamieson's case	
17.	**Associate Professor Nick Thieberger FAHA**	University of Melbourne		
18.	**Peter Hastings KC**	Independent observer	Experienced criminal lawyer and former Commissioner of NSW Crime Commission	
19.	**Associate Professor Miranda Lai**	RMIT University	Associate Professor in translation and interpreting studies, with expertise in transcribing and translating recordings in forensic settings	
20.	**Dr Loene Howes**	Senior Lecturer in Criminology, University of Tasmania	Research on the communication of expert evidence and police investigative interviews. Teaching of unit exploring wrongful convictions	Contributor of chapter in forthcoming book on wrongful convictions edited by Poyser & Milne
21.	**Dr Jane Simpson FAHA FASSA RSNSW**	Professor Emerita, Australian National University	Experience working with illiterate people on communicating high stakes legal and medical information.	
22.	**Dr Alex Bowen**	University of Melbourne	Forensic linguist & lawyer	

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No.	Name	Affiliation	Relevant background	Additional comments
23.	**Professor Kate Burridge FAHA FASSA**	Monash University (Professor of Linguistics)	My research together with my more than thirty years of public engagement has provided me with insights into inaccurate thinking about language (and its fall-out). Recent relevant publication is: Cunliffe, E., Vinuesa, C. G., Rego, R., San Roque, M., Edmond, G., Gans, J., Satoh, M., Burridge, K., Cordner, S. (2024). AAFS (Victorian branch) Symposium: Science and Medicine in the Courts: Learning from the wrongful conviction of Kathleen Folbigg. Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences, 1,22. https://doi.org/10.1080/00450618.2024.2419106	I endorse this call with confidence, having a detailed knowledge of the case and extensive relevant expertise, experience and qualifications
24.	**Oliver Mulholland**	Juris Doctor Student, University of Newcastle	High achieving law student	
25.	**Professor Catherine Travis**	Australian National University	I have close to 30 years experience working with transcription of spontaneous speech data, including conducting research based on transcribed speech and training students and researchers in transcription.	Our standard process is for transcriptions to go through multiple rounds of revisions with different transcribers. Accurate transcriptions require: a clear recording, a trained ear, and multiple listenings, as even small errors (including in pausing and intonation) can make a difference to the meaning expressed or interpreted.
26.	**Dr Hayley Cullen**	Lecturer, School of Psychological Sciences, Macquarie University	Have conducted basic research into false confessions. Have been teaching false confessions in university classes for 8 years.	
27.	**Professor Tammy Gales PhD**	Professor of Linguistics and Director of Research, Institute for Forensic Linguistics at Hofstra University, New York	Co-editor, Cambridge University Press Elements in Forensic Linguistics	I have undertaken research and casework on questioned confession statements in the US.

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No.	Name	Affiliation	Relevant background	Additional comments
28.	**Dr Neil Schultz JD MB BS MMed**	Director, The Injustice Project: Raising Awareness of Injustice	Former forensic psychiatrist, legally trained, assisted Dr Cavanagh in facilitating the release of Kathleen Folbigg	
29.	**Emeritus Professor Stephen Cordner**	Department of Forensic Medicine, Monash University	Co-author of *Wrongful Convictions in Australia*, 2nd ed 2026	
30.	**Professor Kerry Breen**	Adjunct Professor, Dept of Forensic Medicine, Monash University	I am co-author with Stephen Cordner of the 2023 book, *Wrongful Convictions in Australia* https://scholarly.info/book/wrongful-convictions-in-australia-addressing-issues-in-the-criminal-justice-system/	
31.	**Associate Professor Celine van Golde PhD, MSc, BSc**	University of Sydney, School of Psychology, Associate Professor	My research focuses on causes of wrongful convictions. including how testmonies are obtained and false confessions. I have published ample articles on the topic and have written a book about interviewing vulnerable suspects, such as those with FASD, and the risk of false confessions associated with improper interviewing techniques.	I train police and judicial officers in relation to memory and interviewing.
32.	**Dr Sally Dixon**	Senior Lecturer, Convenor of Linguistics, University of New England	As part of my affiliation with the Research Hub for Language in Forensic Evidence, I have been actively researching this case, including reviewing the relevant published research, and participating in the interdisciplinary Hub seminars relating to this matter.	In my research work, I transcribe spontaneous speech, using rigorous protocols for the subsequent analysis of meaning.
33.	**Dr Catherine Creamer**	Honorary Senior Lecturer, University of the Sunshine Coast	Chartered Forensic Psychologist (UK). Associate Fellow British Psychological Society. Registered Psychologist (AHPRA). Consultant Expert, Council of Europe	
34.	**Peter Breen**	Founder of the Justice Review Forum	Assisting Stephen 'Shorty' Jamieson with legal issues	Author of *'Shorty': Mistaken Identity or Stitch Up?*

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No.	Name	Affiliation	Relevant background	Additional comments
35.	**Dr Alexandra Grey**	Chancellor's Research Fellow, UTS Faculty of Law		
36.	**Dr Robert N Moles (ACII) (UK) LLB (Hons) (Belf) Phd (Edin)**	Networked Knowledge (researching miscarriages of justice) Adjunct Associate Professor Flinders University Dept of Law	I am regarded as a leading expert on wrongful convictions in Australia and overseas. I have extensive material on my website Networked Knowledge http://netk.net.au with links to my books and other extensive resources including materials on the case of Mr Jamieson	I have no doubt that Mr Jamieson's conviction was based upon evidence which was false and misleading. I am mindful of the appalling circumstances which gave rise to it. This is sadly a common feature in wrongful conviction cases when the circumstances produce pressure to identify and charge suspects to reassure the public about the understandable concern. 'Rush to judgment' can then give rise to a defensive posture by police and prosecution because of their unwillingness to admit error.
37.	**Dr John L Anderson**	Professor of Law, School of Law & Justice, University of Newcastle, Australia	I have a national and international profile as a criminal law and evidence scholar. I practised as a criminal lawyer before becoming an academic. My PhD (law) was focussed on the sentence of life imprisonment and my subsequent research focuses on matters relating to equity and fairness in the criminal justice system, which extends to sentencing, restorative justice and practice, homicide offenders, life imprisonment, parole and recidivism. I am a very experienced legal academic and have published widely in my research areas. I am familiar with the Jamieson case both from a sentencing and evidence ('admissions') perspective.	I have recently completed supervision (5 years) of a PhD thesis on the post conviction review system in NSW arising out of the Kathleen Folbigg case so have very recent experience in this regard related to the inquiry process.
38.	**Dr Robyn Blewer**	Director, Griffith University Innocence Project		

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No.	Name	Affiliation	Relevant background	Additional comments
39.	**Benjamin Purser**	Australian National University, PhD Candidate	PhB (Hons) in Linguistics, Master of Speech-Language Pathology, current PhD candidate in Linguistics. Over a decade of experience in transcription of contemporary and archival audio. Previous study of forensic linguistics. As a speech pathologist, clinical training regarding the impacts of intellectual disability and childhood learning disabilities on communication (including both verbal expression and language comprehension).	My experience transcribing hundreds of hours of audio of varying quality has underlined the immense difficulty of capturing spoken content accurately in the first instance, and the need for repetition and revision, including review by colleagues to ensure accuracy. My experience as a speech pathologist also has highlighted that individuals with intellectual and learning disabilities are frequently misinterpreted / misunderstood, or may not readily understand information communicated verbally to them without requisite communicative supports, and often this stems from interlocutors lacking an informed approach about their communication skills and interaction styles
40.	**Dr Jamie Walvisch**	Senior Lecturer, University of Western Australia	I research and teach in criminal law and evidence, and have previously taught Forensic Evidence at Monash University. I am lead author of Walvisch, Penn and Davey, 'Forensic science in court: a review of Australian Royal Commissions and inquiries' (forthcoming, Australian Journal of Forensic Sciences), a systematic analysis of 12 Australian inquiry reports spanning 1984-2023 which identifies recurring failures in non-disclosure, in the communication of scientific evidence, and in post-conviction review. I am also co-author of 'Forensic science in the justice system: learnings from the Queensland DNA inquiry' (2024) 57 AJFS 418. Council Member, Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences (Victorian Chapter).	I endorse the call for an inquiry rather than any particular view about the verdict, and I do so in a personal capacity. My views are my own and not those of the Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences.

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No.	Name	Affiliation	Relevant background	Additional comments
41.	**Dr Jean Mulder**	Honorary Senior Fellow, University of Melbourne	Editor-in-Chief, Australian Journal of Linguistics	
42.	**Dr John Gibbons**	Retired	Former President of the International Association of Forensic Linguists. Research and publication on 'verbals'.	
43.	**Terry O'Gorman AM**	Vice President Qld Council for Civil Liberties	Law Council of Australia President's Award 2021 for outstanding contribution to the legal profession Qld Law Society President's Medal 2021 Qld Law Society Outstanding Accredited Specialist Award 2020	
44.	**Professor Mark Nolan BSc(Hons)/LLB; MAsPacSt; PhD; (ANU) SFHEA**	Centre for Law and Justice, Charles Sturt University	Professor of Law and Psychology; Editor-in-Chief Psychiatry, Psychology and Law	Teacher and researcher of criminal law and procedure and legal psychology
45.	**Dr Thea Gumbert**	Private practice psychologist	B Psych (Hons), M Psych (Forensic), PhD, with doctoral research exploring miscarriages of justice.	
46.	**Professor Diane Sivasubramaniam**	Professor of Psychological Sciences, Swinburne University of Technology	I am a social psychologist with expertise in criminal investigations, interrogations, confessions, and legal decision-making. My research has examined investigative interviewing practices, procedural justice, and factors that influence the reliability of information obtained from suspects. I have published research funded by the FBI High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group (HIG) on interrogation and intelligence interviewing practices and serve as Associate Editor of Law and Human Behavior and I am an Associate Editor of the APA Handbook of Forensic Psychology.	

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47.	**Fiona FitzPatrick**	Director - Clinical Legal Education Program, Griffith Law School, Griffith University.	Griffith University Innocence Project Executive Committee	
48.	**Jonathan Nyst**	Director (Non-Principal), Nyst Legal	Griffith University Innocence Project Executive Committee	
49.	**Dr Zoe Rathus AM**	Associate Professor Griffith Law School	Griffith University Innocence Project Executive Committee	
50.	**Rhanee Rego**	Principal, Rhanee Rego & Associates	Griffith University Innocence Project Advisory Board	
51.	**Stephen Keim SC**	Barrister-at-Law Higgins Chambers Pty Ltd	Griffith University Innocence Project Advisory Board	
52.	**The Hon. Ian Callinan AC**	Level 11 Inns of Court, North Quay - Brisbane	Chair, Griffith University Innocence Project	
53.	**Professor Ikuko Nakane**	Professor at the Asia Institute, University of Melbourne	PhD in Linguistics (USyd); member of the International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics	
54.	**Tony Glynn KC**		47 years practice as a criminal practitioner	
55.	**Emeritus Professor Simon Rice, OAM**	The University of Sydney		