

EXHIBIT/MFI: 69

Description:  
Return to:  
(party/non-party, if produced on subpoena) 10  
Associate:

**AFF RECORD OF CONVERSATION**

**RECORD OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN SENIOR CONSTABLE EMMA FRIZZELL AND MATTHEW HIGGINS CONDUCTED AT AN ADDRESS AT MERMAID BEACH, QUEENSLAND ON THURSDAY, TWENTY-FIVE FEBRUARY TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE**

**PERSONS PRESENT: SENIOR CONSTABLE EMMA FRIZZELL  
DETECTIVE LEADING SENIOR CONSTABLE TRENT MADDERS  
MATTHEW HIGGINS**

**TIME COMMENCED: THREE FIFTY-TWO PM**

**FRIZZELL:** This is a record of conversation between First Constable Emma FRIZZELL, oh, well, Senior Constable Emma FRIZZELL and Matthew HIGGINS conducted at an address in Mermaid Beach in Queensland. The time is three fifty-two pm on Thursday, the twenty-fifth of February, two thousand and twenty-one. Now, Matthew, before we start, I'll just get all persons to state their names, and when we get to you if you could just say your age as well. So, myself is Senior Constable Emma FRIZZELL, badge one two eight nine six.

**MADDERS:** Detective Leading Senior Constable Trent MADDERS, badge one zero eight five seven.

**HIGGINS:** And Matthew John HIGGINS, and I am forty-eight years old.

**FRIZZELL:**

- Q1.** Wonderful. Now, it's important you understand that any statement or answer that you may care to make during this conversation today, has to be true to the best of your knowledge or belief, and that it accurately sets out the evidence you'd be prepared to give in court as a witness. Do you understand?  
**A** Yes.
- Q2.** And if you knowingly state anything false or anything that you do not believe to be true, and it is tendered in evidence you may be liable to prosecution. Do you understand that?  
**A** Yes.
- Q3.** Okay. Now, Matthew, as you're aware we are currently investigating an incident that occurred with your daughter, Brittany HIGGINS. Are you aware of the matter I'm referring to?  
**A** Yes.

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- Q4. Okay. What can you tell me about the incident or what do you know about it?  
A Um, I – I know there was an incident at Parliament House.
- Q5. Mm-hmm.  
A So, um, Brittany like, ah, called me, I think around about the weekend of the thirty-first, I think it was. It might have been a Friday or a Thursday or Wednesday, I can't quite remember exactly. So, that's the truth – truth. Um, she said something had happened at Parliament House and she just wanted me to come down and spend the weekend with her. You know, and just, um, yeah, she just wanted to see her dad. And I not thinking anything of it, just thought maybe because she'd just started down there working, that it was – you know, away from home or something like that. I – I didn't really think anything major.
- Q6. Yeah.  
A So, I flew down there. And, um, she was – Brittany was – when I met her, she was definitely, ah, very sad and withdrawn. And I was actually very worried about her. Um, she kind of said to me, something had happened with a work colleague, but did not go into the details. She said that, um, they'd asked her to keep it quiet, and that it was getting dealt with. And, um, she just wanted her dad around just to spend the weekend with her and just make her feel happy.
- Q7. Mm-hmm.  
A So, like me being who I am, Matthew HIGGINS, I actually did not think that it was something like this. So, I did not ask, because she'd said, "Work had said, 'keep it quiet.'"
- Q8. Mm-hmm.  
A I didn't delve into it, maybe not – not having a curious – I – I - I don't know. I wish I had.
- Q9. All right. So, do you recall what year this was?  
A Well, it was – I think it was around – it was around like in nineteen, two thousand and nineteen was it? Yeah, yeah.
- Q10. Yep.  
A And it was around March or something, the end of March.
- Q11. Yep. Okay. So, you said that you got a call from Brittany around the weekend of the thirty-first?  
A Yeah, probably the start of the week or something like that to come down on the weekend and visit her.
- Q12. Yep.  
A Yeah.
- Q13. And that was around March in two thousand and nineteen?  
A Yeah.

- Q14.       **Yep. She said, "That something's happened at Parliament House."  
And asked you to come down and spend the weekend with her?**  
A           **Yep, yep.**
- Q15.       **When you had that phone conversation with her, how did she  
sound?**  
A           **Yes, like I – I wanted to come down, she actually sounded distressed.**
- Q16.       **Yep.**  
A           **Yeah.**
- Q17.       **Can you describe how?**  
A           **Just – just like usually she's really bubbly and happy and talking  
about Parliament House because just, you know, she's always  
bubbly.**
- Q18.       **Mm-hmm.**  
A           **And she was – like it made me worried, that's why I flew down there.  
Like usually I would say, "Hey, in a month's time you're coming up."  
Or, you know, once every six months, I'd get her to come up.**
- Q19.       **Yeah.**  
A           **Yeah, so, that was really it, it was – I wish I hadn't of been so vague.**
- Q20.       **So, how long had Brittany been down in Canberra for do you think?**  
A           **She hadn't been down there too long. I'm not so good with dates,  
like - - -**
- Q21.       **No, that's all right.**  
A           **- - - yeah, youse can kind of go through with her, but I just – like she  
hadn't been down there too long like.**
- Q22.       **Yep.**  
A           **Because that's what made me think that, you know, because  
Parliament being Parliament. And she was working for the Defence.  
And at the start, when she first went down there, she said, she had to  
get, um, like you know, how they have to give them security  
clearances and all that?**
- Q23.       **Mm-hmm.**  
A           **And she can't talk about stuff.**
- Q24.       **Yep.**  
A           **So, that's how – like when she went there, that was what she was  
saying that night. She goes, "Oh, I can't talk about stuff with the  
Defence Department, they've got me doing this – this, you've got to  
get a clearance. And you get checked out." And she was really  
excited to be working there. So, that was coming across. And she  
was busy, she was working very long hours.**
- Q25.       **Yep. Yep.**

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A And, you know, being a young lady, and she's worked hard to get a good job, I was kind of like, "Get out and enjoy."

Q26. Yeah.

A You know, you're kind of proud.

Q27. Yeah.

A That your daughter's gone, so, yeah.

Q28. But before this phone call asking you to come and spend the weekend with her. Had you had something like that happen before, had she ever called you since being down in Canberra, and sort of said, "Look, can you come."?

A As a dad, you've had a lot of things over your life like that with your daughter.

Q29. Yep.

A You know, even say, ah, they've gone to the beach when they're a little kid, she used to be in Nippers, so, she's gone to the beach and hung out with friends, and she rings up. You know, and you can tell when she's a little bit sad or and it's time to come down and say, "Hello," or help her out.

Q30. Yep.

A And other times you'll let them try to work their way through their problems.

Q31. Yep.

A You know, to grow into a really good adult.

Q32. Yep. So, she's called you that weekend and asked you to come down. So, you said, you did, you flew down?

A Yeah.

Q33. Do you recall roughly how long it was after Brittany had called you, that you went down there?

A I'm sure it was the next weekend.

Q34. Yep.

A Yeah. I like - - -

Q35. So, sort of within the week or two?

A Yeah, definitely, definitely within a couple of weeks there. Brittany would be more onto it, because she's the one whereas I was, um, very proud that she had a nice job down there. And, you know, and I thought she was homesick.

Q36. Yep.

A Like honestly. And once she kind of said, "Work said you couldn't talk about it." I kind of have that with my work at Metrocon. You know, I'm a construction manager there.

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- Q37.       Yep.  
A           So, there's stuff we've got to keep in the management team that doesn't go down to certain teams. And, as I said, usually, I'd think Brittany would have volunteered it.
- Q38.       Yep.  
A           Once she'd worked it all out, if – and then, but - - -
- Q39.       Yep.  
A           - - - I think she was pretty shell-shocked.
- Q40.       Yeah. So, you said, that you've flown down and when you met her, she appeared to be sad and withdrawn?  
A           Yes, very much.
- Q41.       Yep. Could you tell me more about that?  
A           Well, I just thought that, ah, when I walked up and saw her, that she was actually, you know, finally sees her dad, she'd been living down there. I got down there and, um, yeah, she was just – I actually thought that she'd been doing it tough living by herself down there.
- Q42.       And what makes you say that?  
A           Well, just because she looks – looks sad at that moment, but – so, that's why I spent I think two days with her.
- Q43.       Yep. Okay.  
A           Yep. And then flew back Sunday.
- Q44.       And what did she tell you, so, she said – sorry, you said that that she said to you, "That something had happened with a work colleague, but she couldn't talk about it."  
A           Yeah, she couldn't talk about it. And I think she said something like, um, "He'd been moved somewhere else." Or something like that, it was very vague.
- Q45.       Mm-hmm.  
A           And she just said, "She couldn't talk about it." And so, I actually thought like it was somebody – I – I don't know, at the time what I thought. But I know what I think now.
- Q46.       Mm-hmm.  
A           Yeah, and this is in hindsight.
- Q47.       Yep. Okay. So, she's told you that something had happened?  
A           Yep.
- Q48.       With a work colleague. He'd been moved on, but she couldn't talk about it?  
A           Yeah.

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Q49. Now, you said that she said to you, "They asked her to keep quiet."  
Did she provide any context around that or do you recall what that  
was about, what she meant by that?

A Not – not – not at all.

Q50. No.

A Like I just remember thinking because she's in the Defence  
Department.

Q51. Yep.

A And like how she'd said she'd done all that.

Q52. Yep.

A That that was something to do with you can't let secrets out or  
honestly, I've never dealt with the government, so I don't know.

Q53. Yep.

A Yeah.

Q54. All right. So, then after this time, so, you said you were there for two  
days?

A Yeah.

Q55. You've come back home. Do you recall the next time that you and  
Brittany spoke about that incident what had happened?

A I – I – I can't really recall too many other times.

Q56. Yep.

A Like I – I think, um, I definitely noticed, over a period of time, that  
she'd really withdrawn.

Q57. Yep.

A So, I'd noticed that. So, I would ring and ask her, "Hey, how are you  
going?" But she'd just say, "Very busy at work." You know.

Q58. Yep.

A And that was - - -

Q59. And since then have you come to know what did occur?

A Yeah, Brittany has said a little bit.

Q60. Yep.

A But I said to her, um, "Probably best to talk to the right people." Like  
I'm her dad and I love her and I'm here to support her. And I'll do  
anything I can. But the more information I know, probably the harder  
it is – like I wish I was strong and could say, "I can talk her through  
it."

Q61. Yeah.

A But she's spent a lot of time talking with her mum.

Q62. Yep.

A Yep.

Q63. What is it that Brittany had told you?

A Not too much, she just said that, "It had happened, something had happened." Just exactly like we said and I didn't really go into the details.

Q64. Did she tell you who with? Like what happened – like who – this something had happened, who that was with?

A I – it's – it's hard to say because it was so long ago.

Q65. Yep.

A You know, and it was – I was really worried about her, but I actually didn't think that a person – that she was hurt by a person, if you know what I mean? Like the way she – she said she was really hurt and that, but it's – it's hard a thing to say when you're not thinking that sort of thoughts.

Q66. Yeah, no, I understand what you mean.

A Yeah.

Q67. All right. And now that Brittany is up here with you, have you had any conversations about what has happened to her?

A We've had conversations of what's happened.

Q68. Yeah

A Like, you know, but she hasn't went – like with me fully, because she's my little girl, it's very, very hard to listen to all that. And then have to – how would you say, keep going.

Q69. Yep.

A You know, without wanting, ah, action.

Q70. Yep.

A If you know what I mean? So, and like you said, it's been a long time and I'm a realist and it's very sad.

All right. Do you have any - - -

MADDERS:

Q71. Yeah. Just, so, Matt, if you can remember, when you flew down to Canberra, do you remember what carrier you used, like what airline?

A No, not at all, but I – I like – it would be either – it would have to have been with Virgin or Jetstar.

Q72. Did you fly direct from Gold Coast to Canberra or did you go to Brisby and - - -

A No. I only went once - - -

Q73. Yeah.

A - - - to Sydney and then I'm pretty sure this one was from Brisbane.

Q74. Oh, okay.

A Yeah, because my girlfriend like lives up at Brisbane.

Q75. Oh, righto. Yep.

A So, we went from there down.

Q76. Yep. Oh, okay.

A Yeah.

Q77. Righto.

A And so, that was the other thing, I'm sure – I had my girlfriend with me.

FRIZZELL: Yep.

MADDERS:

Q78. Was she present for the conversations?

A Not – not on the phone.

Q79. Oh - - -

A Yeah.

Q80. - - - oh, when you went down to Canberra?

A Yeah, when we went down to Canberra, probably not because we were more trying to make her happy.

Q81. Yeah.

A We weren't trying to talk about things because she said that that's – "Work had said not to talk about it."

Q82. Yep.

A So, that was what – we were down there to try to make her get happy. Like have her dad there.

Q83. Yep.

A And I got her to show us Canberra, show us around.

Q84. Yep.

A You know, and, um, yeah, and go out and enjoy – Canberra has wonderful food.

Q85. Mm-hmm.

A Yeah, and have a coffee at some good breakfast places.

Q86. Okay. So, do you know if Brittany has told your girlfriend anything about the alleged incident?

A No.

Q87. No. Okay. Sorry, what's your girlfriend's name?

A Kelly JAGO.



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Q88. Kelly JAGO, how do you spell that?

A Yeah, J-A-G-O.

Q89. J-A-G-O?

A Yep.

Q90. Okay. She lives in Brissy does she?

A Yeah, she lives in Brissy.

Q91. Okay.

A Like I went down twice, I remember – I'm just – they all blend in the years.

Q92. Yeah. So, you've been down to Canberra twice since she's been down there?

A Yeah. I went and visited her twice.

Q93. When was the second time?

A See – see – I can't – I can't actually remember. Unless I started going through my phone and went through - - -

Q94. Yeah, that's all right.

A - - - all my bookings and then tried to line it all up, like - - -

Q95. Yep. Okay.

A - - - Brittany kind of told me yesterday afternoon that I'm having a chat to youse and I was like, Brittany, yeah.

Q96. All right. All right. So, you haven't discussed it too much with Brittany then?

A No.

Q97. Obviously because you just want to support her as her dad?

A Yeah, I want to be supporting her and, um, I would say she's discussed it with her mum very in-depth.

Q98. Mm-hmm.

A And her mum's probably a lot stronger in that way, you know.

Q99. All right. No worries.

A Yeah.

No. That's it.

FRIZZELL:

Q100. All right. No worries. Well, thank you very much for telling us what you have today.

A Yeah.

**ROC BETWEEN FRIZZELL/HIGGINS ... CONTINUED ... PAGE 10**

**Q101. Now, in regards to your statement, was any threat, promise or inducement made out to you to make the answers that you have today?**

**A None.**

**Q102. And were the answers you made today of your own free will?**

**A Yes.**

**Okay. The time is four O eight pm, and the record of conversation is now concluded.**

**ROC CONCLUDED AT FOUR ZERO EIGHT PM**