IN THE MATTER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE

ATTACHMENT AR-6 TO STATEMENT OF ANDREW REAPER

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This is the attachment marked '**AR-6**' produced and shown to **ANDREW REAPER** at the time of signing his Statement on 17 July 2015.

Before me: .... [redacted]

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An Australian Legal Practitioner within the meaning of the Legal Profession Uniform Law (Victoria)

Attachment AR-6

Summaries of VRS, VRS:SV and HCR-20

VRS: The Violence Risk Scale (VRS) is a comprehensive actuarial instrument that covers the majority of the best-established predictors of violence. It includes both static (historical) and dynamic (changeable) risk factors. As such, the VRS acknowledges the fluctuating nature of risk and the dynamic factors can also serve as intervention and management targets. The VRS has been validated in correctional samples in Canada and total scores on the instrument have been found to have a moderate-to-high relationship with subsequent violence. In the initial validation study for the VRS, which included 918 male offenders that were followed up for 4.4 years, approximately 75 percent of the time a randomly chosen violent recidivist would have a higher score on the VRS than a random non-recidivist (Wong, S. C. P., & Gordon, A. (2006). The validity and reliability of the Violence Risk Scale. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law, 12,* 279-309).

VRS:SV: The Violence Risk Scale - Screening Version (VRS-SO) is a brief actuarial instrument developed to serve as a screening tool for violence risk in intake evaluations. It includes all of the static (historical) risk factors and a small sub-set of dynamic (changeable) risk factors from the more comprehensive Violence Risk Scale (VRS). While the VRS-SO has been found to have a relationship with violence that is comparable to the full version, In the initial validation sample, which included 918 male offenders that were followed up for 4.4 years, approximately 74 percent of the time a randomly chosen violent recidivist would have a higher score on the VRS-SO than a random non-recidivist. This was almost identical to that of the VRS (which was 75 percent; see Wong, S. C. P., & Olver, M. E. (2010). Two treatment- and change-oriented risk assessment tools: The Violence Risk Scale and Violence Risk Scale-Sexual Offender Version. In R. K. Otto & K. S. Douglas (Eds.), *Handbook of violence risk assessment* (pp. 121-146). New York: Routledge). it is best viewed as a screening tool because it does not include the comprehensive consideration of dynamic factors and treatment targets that are considered in the full VRS.

HCR-20(v3): The HCR-20 is a set of structured professional guidelines that covers three domains of risk factors related to general violence: historical (past), clinical (present), and risk management (future). The HCR-20 has been extensively validated in studies throughout the world and has been found to be among the most accurate assessment methods for assessing risk for violence. Indeed, more than 150 empirical studies have been conducted in a range of forensic psychiatric, correctional, and civil psychiatric settings. It has been validated for use with both males and females, and in inpatient and outpatient settings. Structured judgments made on the basis of the HCR-20 results have been found to have at least a moderate-to-large, and very often a large, relationship with subsequent violence. A recently described meta-analysis (i.e., a study of studies) indicated that, across 20 different samples, clinicians' structured risk judgments made after completing the HCR-20 guidelines had a large median effect size (AUC = .78). This means that approximately 78 percent of the time a randomly chosen violent recidivist would be deemed a higher risk than a random non-recidivist when using this approach (Douglas, K. S., & Guy, L. S. (2012, June). *Overview of structured professional judgment and the HCR-20* (Webinar)).