Crime Interrupted
An AFP and Casefile Presents podcast.
Episode 4, Operation Tamar

Host – introduction
The Australian Federal Police is Australia's national policing agency. It's aim? To defend and protect Australia and Australia's future from domestic and global security threats. The AFP works with Australian, regional and global partners to keep Australia and our region safe.

The Australian Capital Territory is Australia's smallest self-governing territory, home to the nation's capital city, Canberra. ACT Policing is the community-policing arm of the Australian Federal Police.

These are the real stories of the AFP. Everyday people doing legendary work.

Please be aware: this episode is about a murder investigation and some of the details are distressing.

Host
On the evening of Thursday the 10th of June 2021, a 48-year-old man named Glenn Walewicz answered repeated knocks on the door of his unit in the ACT suburb of Phillip which is about ten kilometres south of Capital Hill and Parliament House. As Glenn opened the door a gunman fired a pump-action rifle at him, hitting him in the neck. He collapsed inside his apartment with injuries that he could not survive. ACT Policing homicide investigators quickly discovered two things. First, the murder was captured on a neighbour's CCTV. And second, there was absolutely no reason why someone would want to kill Glenn.

Host
Part of being in the ACT Homicide Squad means Detective Inspector Matt Innes is on call 24/7. That isn't as daunting as it seems. The ACT has around five or six murders a year. And they all seem to happen in the middle of the night.

Matt Innes
I've never been to a job that's happened whilst I've been at work. They've all been call-outs over the years. And this one was just before midnight on the 10th of June. I received a phone call in relation to a shooting that took place in a low-cost accommodation, government housing place in the ACT. And as a result of that, I called out the Homicide Squad to respond. I live an hour or so out of Canberra in rural New South Wales, and so as a result, on my way in, I'm pretty much on the phone the entire time, and I'm communicating with either people at the scene, people in the office, and identifying who's going to be the case officer, information manager, corroborator. My overall role is to run all the jobs that are going on within the investigations portfolio.

Host
Detective Sergeant Louise Hawke was on-call the night of the murder. The early narrative was that Glenn had been at home with his girlfriend and that someone had come to the door and shot him as soon as he opened it. The girlfriend hadn't seen the shooter, and was naturally traumatised when Glenn tumbled backwards, mortally injured.

Louise Hawke
Would've been around 12:30am, I received a phone call from Matt Innes, notifying me that there'd been a male that had been shot at an address in Phillip in the Australian Capital Territory. With most homicides in the ACT is that we'll get the phone call to attend our office. We all head into the office. We'll all wait till everyone gets in. We'll conduct the briefing of the incident to what we knew at the time that we all attended, and then the team headed out to Phillip where the actual crime scene location was. From there, I was tasked to obtain search warrants in relation to the premises, and once I had obtained those warrants, I returned to the scene and then acted as the forensic liaison for the investigation.

Host
On the long drive into the office where he would meet with the rest of the crew, Matt was in constant contact with other police already on the scene.

Matt Innes
I was talking to the team leader at that stage of Gungahlin Major Crime Squad, who had responded initially to the job. Obviously, members of Woden Patrol, that's one of our south-side patrol districts in Canberra, had responded because when the crime had occurred, the initial phone call was to the ambulance, quite rightly because someone was wounded. And because of the nature of the offence – a gunshot – the Woden Patrol members turned up, cleared the area, which is quite a nerve-racking thing to do. You've got an unknown group of people who've shot someone through a door. And they have to go forward, not knowing whether the offenders are still present or have in fact left the area. So as a result, those members cleared the area, and then obviously got the ambulance to assist Glenn with his wounds. Unfortunately, that was to no avail.

Host
Senior Constable Kassy Dimes was another member of the Homicide Squad who got a call that night from Matt Innes.

Kassy Dimes
We go to the office to get our bearings and figure out what's happened before we get down to the scene. We did a lot of looking through our systems to see what had come through over the radio, who the victim was. But I mean, there really wasn't much to go on from the start. It was just where it had happened, who the victim was, and who the witness was that was there with the victim at the time, and that was it. There was no identity on the shooter. There was no vehicle that had been seen. There was really not much.

Host

Once the ambulance officers had taken Glenn from the scene, he was declared dead at the hospital.

Matt Innes
The nature of his injuries, and without going into graphic descriptions of it, the shot had severed an artery, and as a result, Glenn had lost an enormous amount of blood and his wound was basically unsurvivable from the time of the impact. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Canberra Hospital. So from my perspective, one of the things we're trying to do now is cover off all the scenes. Glenn's body is a crime scene. The securing of the clothing that he was wearing has to be managed appropriately so there's no cross-contamination issues. So we've got to get the right people to the hospital. We've got to have the right people guarding the crime scene. We've got to be speaking to his partner who was inside the premises with him. So as a result of all that, you're now starting to spread your troops quite finely.

Host
The job of staying with Glenn's body was given to Kassy.

Kassy Dimes
Matt told me to go to the hospital and stay with the body until it was taken to the Forensic Medical Centre. So that was my immediate job that night, it was to be with the body and maintain the custody of the body, and take him once he's been cleared from the hospital. But my role for the investigation, yeah, that morning after I'd left the hospital, I was given the role of information manager, which was very daunting to me to be told that, because I'm new to the team. An information manager is one of the most difficult roles, because you're just bombarded with information coming in from everywhere, and you need to make sure that it is recorded and in a format that everyone can understand, and if people need to find something, they can easily locate what they're looking for.

Host
Matt made sure that the police already in attendance at the crime scene looked for CCTV.

Matt Innes
On my way into the scene, we've said, 'Right, we need your people to start a door knock canvas of the area trying to identify any CCTV.' CCTV these days is a critical piece of evidential material for investigating detectives. So, in this case, it's a close-knit, tight apartment complex. Glenn is on the downstairs floor of the complex and as a result of the door knocks conducted by the Major Crime Squad, we identified that one of his next-door neighbours had in fact very clear CCTV of the entire incident, but also audio of the incident as well. So that became clear to us relatively early in our post our arrival to the scene.

Host
As a homicide investigator, it is rare to witness a recording of the very murder you're about to investigate.

Matt Innes

I think in some jurisdictions where CCTV is incredibly prevalent like the UK, I think it happens quite a bit. But in Australia, it's very rare. In our jurisdiction, this is the first time I've ever actually seen anything like it.

Host
By the time Louise gathered with the rest of the Homicide team, news that the murder had been caught on CCTV was shared with them. They watched the recording. Three offenders were visible, but all were covered in hoodies.

Louise Hawke
Part of the briefing was a summary of what that CCTV showed which included that there were three individuals, that there was a firearm. The offenders had made an effort to conceal their identities, but we knew the number of people involved. We had an idea of clothing. We could determine what firearm was used from that CCTV, so in terms of inquiries that occurred off the back of that, made it slightly easier in terms of being able to specify and search for incidents involving that firearm down the track. But just the general callousness of the incident. The three people arrived at the scene, discussed what they were gonna do before they did it, knocked on the door, deliberately didn't respond when asked, 'Who's there?' The deceased comes to the door, cracks the door to see who's there, and then the firearm is turned and aimed at him, and fired without any conversation occurring, any clarification of who's answered the door. Just fired without thought of any consequence that could occur off the back of it. And then they stand around after the shot is fired, having further discussions, and it's not until there's noises from inside that they decide to leave. So had there not been any noises, you can only wonder what possibly would've happened off the back of that, whether they would've pressed the issue to try and get into the unit, fired further shots. We just don't know.

Host
So what did the CCTV look like from an investigator's point of view?

Matt Innes
Initially they just looked like crooks who were going to do a drug run-through of some description, something like that. They were just knocking on a door, and then the firearm's discharged. Now, you got to remember this is a .22, so it doesn't go off like a shotgun where there's this enormous roar of ballistic power going off. It's a .22 and .22s don't give off a loud report, so it goes off more like a clap, and the only reason why it was probably as loud as it was, because it was in this stairwell concrete area, and as a result of that, it gave off probably louder than what it actually was. But it was a peculiar scenario because the door closing was almost as loud as the gun going off. And Glenn was actively trying to close the door. The gun goes off. And then he racks it again – so there was a certain level of knowledge in the shooter that he knew that to get another live round into the chamber, he had to clear the spent cartridge. So he racks it; the shell is ejected, bounces off his arm, and then lands on the floor. And then there's a moaning that comes from inside the crime scene, very loud because he's obviously in agony. And then there's panic and they run.

Host
When the gunman racked the gun, he inadvertently left behind an important piece of evidence.

Matt Innes
A spent cartridge was ejected. That was later located at the scene. So what that gave us was great ballistic evidence, great forensic evidence. So we were enormously happy with that because at the moment we have a classic whodunit. We have no idea who the offenders are in this matter. We've got a victim, Glenn, with very limited intel about anything that goes on in those apartment areas. And the simple fact of the matter was, in Canberra in June, it is not uncommon for people to be wearing hoodies, balaclavas, beanies, gloves, that sort of thing. So as a result of that, forensically, from your classic forensic perspective of DNA, fingerprints, hair follicles, fibres, that aspect was incredibly limited. But we were very, very happy about the ballistic aspect of the matter.

Host
Investigators found that Glenn was actually shot through the door.

Matt Innes
We were able to see that there was quite clear damage to the main wooden door, but not so much seeing the damage through the flyscreen, obviously, because a .22 projectile is actually quite a small round. Part of the hypothesis of the forensic pathologist was that the round may have been tumbling when it hit Glenn, so it wasn't hitting him as a traditional rifle bullet. It would've been tumbling end over end. So when it hit him in the upper chest, a very small entry wound, but a lot of shards of wood. That then severed an artery in his chest, and that was subsequently the cause of death – the amount of blood loss from the wound. As far as unlucky goes, honestly it hits a different style of door, it hits a piece of reinforcement in the wire mesh, it hits something else… so yeah, it was desperately unlucky.

Host
When the Homicide detectives arrived on the scene, they needed to get the lay of the land.

Kassy Dimes
One of the main priorities is actually just to speak to the people that are already on the scene, all the general duties and the other detectives that are there, and get a rundown of what has actually happened, what has been done, and what still needs to be done. But the main priorities are: is there any forensic evidence that needs to be captured? Are there witnesses that haven't been identified. You need to door knock everybody in that whole complex to see who was at home. Did anyone wake up? Did anyone hear anything?

Host
A homicide investigation has to cast a broad net right from the start. Louise could see straight away that it wasn't going to be an easy task.

Louise Hawke
The unit complex in which he resided was a public housing complex. So for myself, upon arriving, I'm generally assessing the area. Where is the crime scene? Where is the crime scene tape being established? Do we need to pull the cordon further out? Does it need to go in? What crime scene guards are in place to prevent people entering and exiting? Are they being

recorded? I suppose just the general nature of the housing complex that because it was a unit complex it probably gains a lot more attention than a residential area. So it's just keeping all those things in mind. Is the suspect in another unit nearby? Have they left? Who's involved? Do they know who's involved? Who are witnesses? Obviously, we got the CCTV that showed what had occurred, but what other CCTV is around that we can access and get more information on?

Host
With a random shooting, there are important safety concerns.

Louise Hawke
When we attend homicides, we like to try and identify whether or not they're isolated incidents from the start to allow for that public assurance that there's no ongoing risk to safety. In this instance, we really didn't have much other than the three people involved to go from the start. We didn't know if it was related to the person inside. We didn't know if it was related to his girlfriend. If he wasn't the target, who was the intended target? Is this the start of a wave of home invasions involving firearms because people owe money for particular things or they've wronged the wrong person? And if they have got the wrong person, well, who are they actually after and do they have their own safety risks moving forward that we need to be concerned about and address?

Host
Detective Sergeant Laura Howe was working in ACT Policing Organised Crime when Glenn was murdered.

Laura Howe
I'm part of Criminal Investigations in ACT Policing at the time, and I was attached to our Drugs and Organised Crime team. And I recall when this job came in, they were basically seeking extra members from Criminal Investigations to come and assist with the investigation of the homicide. And so I was requested to go across for a three-week period to help the team out and to do some of the initial investigation and inquiries and ended up staying on the team for about two and a half years and saw the job from beginning to end.

Host
A colleague of Laura's from Criminal Investigations also came across to help the Homicide Squad. Like Laura, Detective Sergeant Chris Watson didn't receive the call in the middle of the night. He found out about the murder the following day.

Chris Watson
I'd been waiting to get a spot at homicide, so I was looking to get in there. So volunteering essentially to go and help. I was involved in the first team briefing that morning. And just essentially what had happened what we knew at the time that Glenn had been shot in his house that there was some footage. I watched the footage. We didn't know a lot about Glenn at that point in time and that we needed to learn more about Glenn.

Host

When the perpetrator is unknown, Homicide investigators begin at the victim and work their way outwards.

Laura Howe
Very early on, we always start off doing the victimology, so learning about who the victim is, learning about their life, their history, their involvements, any associations that might be of interest to us. And I think it came across quite early that Glenn wasn't a person that would necessarily be involved in criminal activity. He wasn't someone that had any overt criminal history links, any sort of links of concern that we'd be needing to do a deep dive on. Quite early, Chris spoke to his mum and obviously understood a little bit more about who he was as a person. And I do remember her as describing him as being a gentle giant, and he was not imposing, but he was of big stature. But she always described him as being very gentle and kind, and I think that was quite evident throughout the entire investigation that that's just who he was: someone that would help out other people, someone that wouldn't necessarily get into other people's business. And as the investigation progressed, it became quite clear that it wasn't any wrongdoing of Glenn's that led people to his door.

Host
Glenn's girlfriend, who was there when he was shot, could cast no light on who did it or why.

Chris Watson
She was obviously quite affected by what she had seen. Glenn just went to the door and answered a knock at the door in the middle of the night. And she heard a bang, and then he had landed on the ground, and she could obviously see that he had been shot and was having difficulty. Their relationship was very new, so she wasn't even familiar with the address. So she's immediately trying to get him help via triple zero, but she didn't know where they lived. So frantically searching the unit for something with the address so she could give an accurate address to the call taker. It had a significant impact on her. It was quite distressing.

Host
It wasn't just Glenn who the detectives had to look closely at. It was all of the people around him. Every lead had to be followed up.

Louise Hawke
It's a massive amount of effort to chase down all the information that comes in, but from the start, we're looking at the long-term picture, the long-term goal of having the matters go through court and obtaining successful prosecutions. If there's information available that we haven't cross-referenced, double-checked, negated, it's an easy play for them at court to say, 'Well, it was this particular person. You did nothing around them.' But that results in an enormous amount of evidence and information that we need to go through. You've got the witness accounts. You've got the information that's come from surrounding areas. You've got the information that comes from the general public. We will also do media releases that then produces further information. Each time you go and talk to one person that may have been nominated, that leads to further inquiries. You find a vehicle, that leads to further inquiries. You've got CCTV, further inquiries. Each piece of evidence will have multiple pieces of evidence that rolls off the back of that, that you've just gotta knuckle down and get it done.

Host
Not only was it the people around Glenn that the police had to investigate, they also had to look closely at the area in which he was killed.

Laura Howe
It happened in Phillip, and there's a lot of apartment complexes, units, a heavily populated area in terms of people. And so working through each of them to work out if Glenn wasn't the intended target, who was? And trying to work back then through their links and associations to try and work out if there would be a motive for somebody else to be targeting one of those people. So it definitely is a complex way of starting, particularly when you've got nothing to go on.

Host
A canvas of the neighbours found that Glenn's door wasn't the first one the three offenders had knocked on.

Chris Watson
From the canvas, we were able to determine that the offenders visited another unit before Glenn's that night, knocking on that door, but went away empty-handed. So that's the sort of information we got. We're like, 'Well, you know they went to this one. Did they even really know where they're going? Did they hit Glenn's by mistake?'

Host
As the information manager on the investigation, Kassy was tasked with tracking down all the available CCTV from the surrounding area. While the murder itself had been caught on camera, a broader look at CCTV might help identify a getaway vehicle.

Kassy Dimes
You're looking at CCTV from the start because I mean these days it's everywhere, and people have from their front doors, which cover parts of the streets in front of their houses. And especially if you have no idea who you're looking for, or even what vehicle you're looking for, you're just getting whatever you can just in case the missing piece is in that CCTV.

Host
With the flood of CCTV coming in, Kassy took on the job of reviewing it, much of it frame by frame, to see if she could identify the murderers fleeing the scene.

Kassy Dimes
I was very invested and really keen to see if I could find anything. And so I did take it upon myself to do a lot of the reviewing of all of the footage that came in.

Host
Kassy started from a logical hypothesis.

Kassy Dimes
There's a pedestrian access down into the complex from Ainsworth Street. And we knew from the footage that the offenders ran that way, and so it was a good hypothesis that there was a vehicle that they were using, and hopefully it was parked on Ainsworth Street. So one of the first things that we checked with the bus footage was the buses that went through around the time of the murder, and we prioritised them with the ones that were closest to the time of the murder, and went through them, and they were not helpful. Once all of the buses had been gone through, there was one that I had put on the oh-it-can-be-done-later pile, because according to the bus route, this bus passed through Ainsworth Street after the murder happened. And then when I finally got to that one, it turns out that this bus was running ten minutes ahead of schedule, and was passing through Ainsworth Street near the complex right around the time of the murder. And so this is when we finally saw that there was a vehicle. It was a dark-colored hatchback, and it was parked on Ainsworth Street, right near the pedestrian steps down into the complex where the murder happened. And so it was flagged as being of interest.

Host
Once she had a potential getaway vehicle, the next step for Kassy was to try and track it through other cameras.

Kassy Dimes
If this is the getaway car, then I can access the traffic camera footage and see if I can identify any vehicles that come out of Ainsworth Street onto Hindmarsh Drive, and there were some traffic cameras that captured Hindmarsh Drive, and on that footage, you could see all the way up to the intersection with Ainsworth Street. It was very far in the distance. It was a little dot. But it was enough to look at, and so I zoomed right into that intersection, and I just had my eyes glued to the screen around the time that the bus passed, and I just watched, and that's when I saw that there was a green light, and then there was this dark car that sped through the intersection, straight across Hindmarsh into the other side – so obviously going through a red light. And it was right around the time, just after the time that the murder happened. So then we're like, *Yes!* We've got a car. We don't know what the car is, but we've got a car, and we know which way it's gone. And then it was a mad scramble, because this was about a month after the murder happened. It was a mad scramble to now go back to the other side of Ainsworth, more into Woden, to see what footage we could get from that side, to see if we could track this car and actually identify what it was.

Host
In compiling the data, Kassy thought it would be a good idea to make a list of every car that she could identify in the area that night.

Kassy Dimes
Along Hindmarsh Drive, there are two point-to-point cameras, the average speed cameras – so it dings you here, and then it dings you further along, and if you're speeding you get a ticket. So that was one of the things that we had also got really early on, is all of the data of every single vehicle that went through those two cameras during the four-hour window that we were

interested in. And then I was able to match that up with the traffic camera that's located on Hindmarsh Drive and Yamba Drive which actually shows the footage of the car going through that intersection. And then when I went back and reviewed the screenshots that I had made from the traffic camera, there was that vehicle with a P plate, a red P plate on the back, at the intersection heading towards Mawson on Hindmarsh Drive. And so it just started putting it all together. You know, there's a vehicle of interest heading the right way. We have the dark colored hatchback with what looks to be a P plate sticker as well on the bonnet, parked near the complex when the murder happened. So yes, that was all very exciting when these little pieces start to come together.

Host
Matt and the Homicide team were excited by Kassy's findings.

Matt Innes
Kassy was quite incredible, to be honest. I couldn't do it. I don't know how she did it for as long as she did it for. And to stay as committed and as focused to it, like was just the height of professionalism. She was able to pick up the bus CCTV as it drove past the offending vehicle that allowed us then to put a type of vehicle into the heads of the investigators, but also to speak to our traffic people and see if we could narrow down what sort of vehicle it was. and this was quite incredible because all it would've taken is for her to turn away for a second – she then saw a black vehicle without its lights on, going across a dark bridge about three or four minutes after the event. All you can see is they pick up the brake lights as they slow to go off the bridge, and then that's it. It is literally about a half a second of vision going across a bridge, and for someone to pick that up and then be able to go, 'That's the car,' and then we were able to do things with that piece of information. It was quite incredible. I've never seen anything like it.

Host
The inquiry was a process of elimination.

Chris Watson
Whenever new information comes in, you test that against what you already know and see whether it fits or not. And so at the time, Kass was checking the CCTV against the suspects as they came up or the persons of interest as they were identified. It was also a way that we could rule out some of the other people. Were they in the area at the time? No. Okay, we don't need to focus on them. Let's start focusing on these others.

Host
Not only did Kassy have to examine all the CCTV from around the area from the night of the murder, she also moved onto police body-worn camera footage, and found an offender in an unrelated incident who looked a lot like the person standing next to the shooter in the CCTV video from the murder scene.

Kassy Dimes
Getting any CCTV from other incidences that had happened, and then being able to compare the people involved, like the size and stature of them to who we had. One of the offenders came up in a stolen motor vehicle. And he was stopped by police, and he got out and ran and jumped

over a fence and, and got away that way, and it was captured on the body-worn camera. And we had access to that footage from the start. And right away I was like, 'He's really similar to one of the guys in the footage that we have.' He's skinny and lanky and, like, just the build of him. And so we're like, 'We'll keep that in the back of our mind. Who knows if it's gonna be relevant or not.' But that's something that we definitely had to do, is look at other offences that had occurred: to just compare what we had, what we knew about the people that we had and if it had come up previously.

Host
Matt had a theory about the gun used in the murder.

Matt Innes
We figured that the one line of inquiry that we would be able to hold onto would be that they wouldn't get rid of the gun. And we thought if we could locate the gun, then we could do tracing back. So we identified groups through previous jobs that we've worked on, and this is one of the joys of living in a reasonably small jurisdiction, that jobs that had been undertaken by people who discharge firearms – and that obviously shrinks the pool right down – firearms can be used often in these jobs, but someone who's capable of discharging a firearm tends to be a little bit more different. So there was a group that was active one or two years before that, that we identified that may have some role to play in this.

Host
With a nation-wide alert out for the type of pump action .22, one report stood out.

Chris Watson
As part of that canvas with the external agencies, we identified a firearm that fit the features that we were looking for, had been stolen in a burglary in Orange in January of 2021. That firearm hadn't been recovered, however, two offenders had been charged. Those offenders were related to people here in the ACT who were linked with a number of stolen motor vehicle and burglary-related offences. And they would travel between here and Wagga and Orange. One of those particular individuals had previous criminal history for offences involving firearms. And one of the offenders charged with the break and enter in Orange in relation to the gun was the brother of that person. So that gave us a pretty strong line of inquiry to follow in order to determine how that firearm came to be in Canberra.

Host
With links between a firearm of the same type the investigators were looking for and offenders local to the ACT, the team felt one step closer to the three figures caught on CCTV outside Glenn's flat. And more importantly, a link emerged to a notorious local woman. Her home was well known to police as a place at-risk youth would flock to.

Laura Howe
The woman really was a mother figure to a lot of these young children, particularly children that were involved in the drug scene themselves. And it was a bit of a respite and a home that they knew that they could go to and that she would take them in. The influence that she had on those kids is evident, I think, from this job and from the investigation that we did. The house

itself wasn't run down. It was probably a relatively normal residential single-storey house in Canberra. It was definitely a house that people could stay or kids could stay at if they needed to. I don't think she would ever turn any of them away. But it was a house that kids went to, to be able to source drugs or to be able to live without any rules and have her as a pseudo mother figure that would take them in and make sure that they had a bit of food available to them in exchange for doing things on her behalf

Host
The more the investigation centred around the woman, the more dangerous her behaviour seemed.

Louise Hawke
As it turns out, she was tasking these kids to go out and commit offences on her behalf. And the biggest way of motivating them to do that was to supply them with drugs, so they either had no idea what they were doing, or they were so addicted to it that they would do anything to get the drugs that they needed to get through the day. There was the high from the drugs, but there was the high from evading authorities that she just played on.

Host
Once the woman had been identified, the next step was to try and narrow down the field of possible offenders. Investigators knew they needed at least three – or four if there was a getaway driver on the night. They also knew one of them was much shorter than the others, meaning that at least one of them could be quite young.

Chris Watson
We start looking at the key players, the people who are continually found at her house. We started reviewing body-worn footage from previous attendances by other police, and looking at the footage, seeing what clothing was worn, who was there, their height, mannerisms, those sorts of things.

Host
Positioning a picture of the woman at the centre of a display at the Homicide Squad office, the detectives had to work out which youths might be the ones from the CCTV video.

Chris Watson
We did have a board. We did start to work out that the woman was probably the centre of what happened. She was definitely tasking kids out to do offences, so it was reasonable to suspect that she'd probably tasked them to go and do this one. We were able to link the brother of the firearm thieves. He was a strong suspect to begin with. We had to look at where he was going, where he was at the time, what he was doing, who he was hanging out with. Who else was at her house at the time as well? And then as we progressed, we started to learn a bit more about who was involved in some of the offending, because they weren't always the same people. And then you have to look at each of them individually and work out who they were, who they're hanging out with, where they were at the time, and go from there.

Host

Without drawing undue attention to the fact, the Homicide investigators began zeroing in on the woman at the centre of all the young suspects.

Matt Innes
The woman was incredibly highly visible to police. She's well known to police in that area. Her house is for burglars, car thieves, robberies. She would pay in drugs. She would facilitate robberies.

Host
Detectives felt a step closer to the truth when they became aware of the woman referring to a 17-year-old boy that seemed to confirm the unfolding story.

Chris Watson
-We became aware that she'd referred to that particular individual and that she'd requested him to come around. And she'd done that via her son. And through that we were able to work out that he was residing in an address in the ACT, and we were able to link him through her son's associations essentially and identify who he was. So that's when he first came into the picture. And then we were a bit concerned that she was referring to him, and it firmed up that theory that she was the orchestrator of the incident that led to Glenn's murder.

Host
Five months after Glenn was killed, detectives executed a search warrant at the home of the 17-year-old suspected shooter.

Chris Watson
As a result of identifying this person we were worried that he was in possession of the firearm, so we decided in November that we would go and execute a search warrant at his house. Being referred to obviously put him in the frame for being the shooter at the time. But we were still open-minded as to whether he was just holding the gun for them and not necessarily involved in the offence. So when we executed the search warrant, we met him. We found some things during the search warrant including ammunition of the same calibre, both spent casings and live projectiles. It was the same calibre, same brand as that located at Glenn's murder. So we knew that he was well involved at that point. I don't think we thought for sure that he was the shooter at the time, but he was definitely a possibility. The story that he provided about how he came to be in possession of the ammunition wasn't very believable. So it strengthened our suspicions about him.

Host
Even though Laura was familiar with the woman and her house for young offenders, she hadn't met the 17-year-old boy before.

Laura Howe
The seventeen-year-old wasn't anybody that I had come across before. He too lived in the same zone that I used to police when I was in general duties. He wasn't someone that I was familiar with. It became quite apparent that he wasn't someone that would attend school on a regular basis. He wasn't a street kid, but he certainly wanted to live that life where he was seen to be

cool and that he was a gangster. But we didn't actually have too much on him, to be honest. It wasn't until we started looking into him more that we actually tried to work out who his associates were, who he spent time with, and a little bit more about him and his family life.

Host
When Matt and the team heard the 17-year-old had practised firing the gun at his home, they needed to search for the evidence.

Matt Innes
So information we received throughout the course of the investigation indicated that he'd undertaken practice firings into the backyard of his house. Now the backyard of his house, is a tip. Like we literally hired a ten cubic metre skip and filled it with rubbish for us to be able to forensically examine the backyard. And so as a result of that, we sifted the backyard of this house. That literally means digging up the backyard, the soil, and sifting it like ye olde gold miners. And eventually we got projectiles. And on the basis of that, our crime scenes people went back and found gunshot residue in the wood of his window frame.

Host
One by one, offenders caught on the CCTV on that cold winter's night back in June, slowly solidified into real people. There was the 17-year-old shooter, and then the investigators identified the person standing next to him during the murder. He was 22.

Matt Innes
The 22-year-old was involved in a relationship with one of the woman's relatives, and that had broken up, and he was now on the outer within that group. And so as a result of that, he actually probably became one of the easier targets to go after because he was on his own. He'd grown up in a small country town in rural New South Wales, He came down to Canberra, drifted into this world of the woman and her family, started a relationship with one of her family members, and then when that broke up, he was cut loose. He was on his own and he fell out of that picture. But from an investigations perspective, he was very much one of our best assets.

Host
Tracking down the 22-year-old man, the investigators finally solved the mystery of the whereabouts of the gun.

Matt Innes
We always had it in our minds that they wouldn't get rid of the gun. Down the track, the 22-year-old had moved away back out of Canberra. We went up to his residence in rural New South Wales, to execute search warrants to look for clothing and various other items that may be of assistance. And through some great work by Chris Watson when he was talking to him. We'd arrested him and we allowed him to speak to his mother. So he gave up the location. We'd been through that property, and we'd been to the mother's house, so we went back to the grandmother's place and executed the search warrant there and So it was New South Wales Police members executing the warrant. And basically once we got the firearm back to New South Wales Police Station in the town, they then transferred it through their systems to us, and we conveyed it back to Canberra for ballistic examination. And then to get it to ballistics

and get the great news that we got out of ballistics in relation to the exact matches of the spent cartridges that we'd secured at the crime scene, and also at the 17-year-old's house where he'd undertaken some practice firing was critical to the success of the brief.

Host
The 22-year-old confirmed a shocking truth about the third person in the CCTV video, the one the police suspected might be young because of their short stature. He was a 12-year-old boy.

Chris Watson
Through all the evidence that we'd gathered by the time that we went in and arrested the 22-year-old in New South Wales, we had strongly suspected that those who were later charged, including the twelve-year-old, were those people. It was quite a strange or surreal feeling when the twenty-two-year-old did tell us what happened, and they started from the top and worked through, and it was just confirming everything that we'd already thought, and it was quite strange that we were able to get it so right, based on what we'd had at the time. So the twelve-year-old was in the frame. He was one of two people we were looking at who was around that height and age, and he was also the stronger of the two suspects, I would say, because of clothing that linked him to other offences and some of the other information that we had at the time. The fact that a twelve-year-old was involved in a murder, that's shocking for everyone, including us.

Host
Once the detectives identified the team, they also identified the driver of the getaway vehicle – the one seen running a red light on the CCTV.

Louise Hawke
The driver came in and gave us a version, but it was the narrative that he wanted to provide us. He never came in and actually then gave the full story. The 22-year-old, after he was charged, spoke to us, so we had a bit of an idea what had occurred, and the same with the twelve-year-old, that he eventually gave us a narrative of what had gone down. So we were able to tell Glenn's family what we thought had occurred and the sequencing of events, but we were never really able to give them any sort of explanation as to why, other than he wasn't the intended target, and he never should've died.

Host
Considering that in the beginning, investigators had a murder with no suspects and no idea why Glenn might have been targeted, after months of investigation, they finally got to charge the four who drove to Glenn's house that night. It fell to Chris to tell Glenn's mum how her son had come to be murdered.

Chris Watson
So we knew from a supplementary search warrant that we'd done on the woman we knew that she had sent them around to commit a home invasion on her cousin and her boyfriend at the time, who were involved in selling drugs. They went by a particular name, and the 22-year-old had previously purchased drugs from somebody with a very similar name in the vicinity of Glenn's unit. So when the woman tasked them to go and do this home invasion and steal the

drugs and the money, she said, ‘Go to this person’s house.’ So the 22-year-old said, ‘Yep, I know where that is.’ And that’s why they went to Glenn’s unit. But it wasn’t the unit that they were being sent to. In fact, the intended targets didn’t even live on that side of town, so they made an incredibly stupid mistake.

Host
As the offenders were charged and brought before the courts, Glenn’s mother attended every hearing in relation to her son’s case.

Chris Watson
I think she needed to do it for herself, but I think she was also doing it for Glenn and that she wanted to be there for Glenn. He was taken from her; so she’s his mum, she’s gonna do everything that she can for him. And that for her was turning up and making sure that those responsible were held responsible for their actions. And then that meant going to significant court appearances. We’re talking over sixty-five court appearances across all of the offenders over a few years. It was a lot, yeah.

Host
And what of the woman who gave four young people a loaded shotgun and sent them off to commit a home invasion?

Chris Watson
Originally, she was charged with conspiracy to commit an aggravated burglary or a home invasion. She was charged with being an accessory after the fact to murder. And through the court process, the prosecution laid additional charges with regard to recruiting children to commit offences and those sorts of things, and then they were dealt with in the court system.

Host
The charges against the 12-year-old boy were dropped, and the remaining offenders involved in Glenn’s murder entered a guilty plea to the charges laid. In February 2023, the getaway driver, was sentenced to two years imprisonment, suspended on a good behaviour bond. A month later, the 22-year-old was sentenced to ten years and three months in jail for murder. In June, the shooter, who was aged 17 at the time of the murder, was sentenced to 13 years’ jail with seven years and nine months to be served as a minimum sentence. Then, in 2025, just days out from her trial, the woman entered a guilty plea to the charges of attempted aggravated burglary and accessory after the fact of murder. She was sentenced to seven years in prison with a non-parole period of four years.

Host
Louise sums up the complexities of Operation Tamar.

Louise Hawke
Most homicides that I’ve had in my experience, there has sort of been an indication of who’s responsible from the start, whereas this one, we went down the avenues of Glenn, we went down the avenues of his girlfriend, we went down the avenues of people in the area at the time, we went down the avenues of people offending in the ACT at the time, we went down the

avenues of the firearm, we went down the avenues of vehicles in the area, that it was just such a wide net from the start, that no amount of technology these days is going to get rid of investigators having to sit down and just do the grunt work; just go down all those rabbit holes, tick all the boxes, dot all the i's. It's a credit to the investigative team, the countless hours they spent reviewing CCTV, listening to records of conversation, re-listening to them to see whether or not there was something that they missed on the first time round. Every car that was burnt out, every car that was stolen, is it connected? And it was when we started to get those little bits of nuggets that, okay, well, the casing at the scene has now been matched back to the firearm that we think may be involved, and okay, well now that we've done search warrants and located other casings, yes, we can say that these casings are the same, so yes, we're on a better track as to put the firearm at this location, but we still need to work out who's in possession of the firearm at that particular point in time. So I think on reflection of the whole investigation, I think it was the grunt work that everyone did to connect those dots, and there were so many dots to connect that made it complex, made it lengthy, and it required a massive amount of effort from everyone on team to be able to achieve the results that we achieved because we just, we didn't have that starting point that most other jobs do.

Host
For Laura, there was a great deal of satisfaction in seeing those responsible for the murder face the consequences of what they had done – especially for Glenn's mum.

Laura Howe
You definitely do feel that sense of pride when it's finished. You think about the hours that you've spent at work dealing with this particular investigation, and it was our lives for a good twelve months trying to get to the bottom of it. I think too, the fact that Mum had gone to so many court appearances, particularly Chris, but we all formed a relationship with her throughout that court process. And so I think feeling the gratitude from Mum in relation to what we'd managed to do to get some sort of closure for her. It certainly brought us together, and it demonstrated, I suppose, for us, what we're able to do when we are dedicated to getting a positive result at the end.

Outro

Host
If you are interested in learning more about how the ACT Policing works and how officers like Matt, Chris, Laura, Kassy, and Louise investigated this case, visit a-f-p-dot-gov-dot-a-u