

REDACTED

3. MONSIGNOR LEO FISCALINI

Is Retired Vicar General of the Diocese of Ballarat and he resides at St. John Vianney's House at Warrnambool, telephone 055 612375.

Although he is in his eighty-first year, Monsignor Fiscalini has a very clear memory and he is in good health and still serves in a relieving capacity at Parishes outside Ballarat.

I interviewed him at his residence on 7th July and he stated as follows :

"I knew Gerald Ridsdale in his capacity as a Priest in the Ballarat Diocese, particularly whilst I was Vicar General of the Diocese. In 1970 to 1972 Gerald Ridsdale was a Curate at Warrnambool whilst I was the Parish Priest. There were no incidents or complaints about his behaviour with children whilst he was with me at Warrnambool.

In 1972, whilst I was Vicar General at Ballarat, I was visited at the Diocesan Offices by

Mr. ^{BPF} [REDACTED] of Mortlake, who was a brother of the ^{REDACTED} [REDACTED]

^{REDACTED} [REDACTED] ^{BPF} [REDACTED] may have been accompanied by his wife. They were very distressed about a sexual molestation of their son at Mortlake by Father Ridsdale. I did not get the explicit details of the molestation. The matter was reported to Bishop Mulkearns and Gerald Ridsdale was immediately removed from Mortlake. There was no other person or

Gerald Ridsdale was immediately removed from Mortlake. There was no other person or deputation of persons from Mortlake to the Cathedral at Ballarat whilst I was Vicar General. However, I believe that a good number of boys were molested at Mortlake by Gerald Ridsdale. It is a sad fact that a number of these boys and some families, do not go near the Church at Mortlake, as a direct result of Gerald Ridsdale's behaviour. I think the REDACTED family still attend and support the Church at Mortlake. There is a teacher, Anne Ryan, at Mortlake Catholic School, who was there in Father Ridsdale's period and she is aware of the children who were molested by Father Ridsdale. I have heard that she actively takes an interest in the boys who were molested at Mortlake in that period.

Gerald Ridsdale did not appear to comprehend the extent of the wrong he was doing to these children. I have heard that he had molested children whilst he was stationed in Sydney after he had been at Mortlake.

Many years ago there was a Father Monk charged with offences relating to boys whilst I was Vicar General. The charges were heard in Court and dismissed."

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