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Arrested: This man, a former priest, will be extradited to Warrnambool to face sexual assault charges. Picture: AARON FRANCIS

Former priest on sex count

A FORMER Cape York health worker yesterday was arrested for allegedly preying on altar boys when he was a priest in Victoria almost 15 years ago.

The 57-year-old man, who under Queensland law cannot be named until he is committed to trial, appeared in Cairns Magistrates Court yesterday on one count of indecent assault that

allegedly occurred in February 1991. He was bailed for extradition to Warrnambool, about 300km southwest of Melbourne, where police say they expect to lay further charges.

Victoria detectives said the charges related to his dealings with altar boys over 14 months, when he was a Catholic priest.

He was arrested at an address

at Cannon St, Manunda, about 8pm yesterday following an eight-month investigation by Victorian police. The accused moved to the Far North following the alleged assaults, police said.

In January, he resigned from his position as a health worker that he held for three years. It is expected police will investigate the defendant's time in the region.

The Cairns Post
20 April 2006