

New South Wales Police

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v2.4

STATEMENT in the matter of:

Place: Newcastle

Father Vincent RYAN - CNF

Police Station

Date : 19 October, 1995

Name:

REDACTED

Address:

Occupation:

REDACTED

Tel. No.: REDACTED

STATES:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

2. I am ^{REI} years of age.

REDACTED

4. I first met Father RYAN in the winter of 1988, where I met him through ^{REDACTED} Sister Kathryn. During the next couple of years I formed a friendship with Father RYAN after my kids made their confirmation at the end of 1988. The camp with the confirmation was the time at where our friendship started and then father RYAN would ring and asked us if we would like to come to mass. I didn't have any transport so he would come and pick us up and drive us to mass.

Witness

REDACTED

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5. The friendship grew and I thought my boys needed a father figure and Father RYAN seemed a nice man and would be a good influence on my sons. Father RYAN was the head of a program called RENEW it was a program to encourage people to get back into the church and CNF became more involved with him at this time when CNF started at REDACTED and he could bring CNF home after school on a Wednesday. I thought this arrangement was good and Father RYAN would then stay for tea on a Wednesday night after he brought CNF home. CNF was 12 year old in 1989.

6. Father RYAN would then stay after mass on Saturday for tea and he became 'one of the family' and was in constant contact with my family. In April, 1989, I had to go to a wedding in Sydney for friends REDACTED I can't remember how the arrangements were made but while I was attending the wedding my sons stayed for the weekend at Father RYAN'S presbytery at Cessnock. REDACTED

REDACTED My sons were comfortable with Father RYAN so I thought that it was alright. I remember when I came home Father RYAN picked me up from the bustop and as soon as we went home he had to race off to see his mother who had broken her hip.

7. The contact between Father RYAN and my family continued and CNF would spend more time with him by themselves. They would stay over like at holiday time with him and also he had a group for altar servers and they would play video games and watch a movie and play games like that. He would supervise this group. He would pick up the boys for that as well. The boys had become altar servers at this time.

Witness:

REDACTED

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REDACTED

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8. Our friendship continued and then he transferred to Taree in January, 1995. I remember when CNF was REDACTED in 1993, REDACTED
 REDACTED I remember in November 1993, Father RYAN took CNF to REDACTED with him to visit a friend of Father RYAN's REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED. I was happy for CNF to go away with Father RYAN because I trusted Father RYAN and he was good family friend as well as my Parish Priest.

REDACTED

[Large redacted block]

REDACTED REDACTED CNF has tried to harm himself on two occasions. This is to do with a psychological problem as a result of emotional incident as well as REDACTED. During his time in Cessnock there was a lot of dispute amongst the Cessnock parishioners about the changes and operations in the churches. REDACTED

REDACTED

[Large redacted block]

10. On 7 August, 1995, CNF and I came back from Prince

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[Redacted witness name]

Signature: REDACTED

[Redacted signature]

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CNF

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Henry Hospital after he had changed medication. REDACTED had come home REDACTED lunchtime and CNF was laying in bed still. REDACTED went and spoke to him while I was outside doing chores. The next thing REDACTED came out and said, "Mum I think you had better come inside." My heart sank into my stomach as I thought CNF had tried to harm himself again.

11. I went inside and I went into CNF bedroom and sat on the side of his bed. REDACTED was prompting CNF to speak, CNF said, "Vince abused me." I went into shock and couldn't believe what he said, I can't remember exactly what he said but he detailed what Father Vince RYAN had done to him. I asked questions like when and where and how could he do it. We sort of comforted each other and then later that night Father RYAN rang me to check on CNF He was there the night before for tea after visiting from Taree. He would come and visit from Taree on his days off.

12. When he telephoned I remember I was shaking uncontrollably and I spoke to him, I said, CNF has told me something that was very distressing. that has happened between him and you." He said, "Yes." I said, "How could you I trusted you with my son?" He said, "I know." I said, "When did it all start?" He said, "When you went to the wedding in Sydney." He then went on to tell me that he had been abused and began to cry and call himself a monster and said that he was evil. I was

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criing on and off during the conversation.

He asked, "Do the other two know?"

I said, "Yes REDACTED knows he was the one who came and got me?"

He said, "My sexual urges have died when CNF REDACTED

REDACTED

He then said which shocked me,

He said, "Is there any way we can still be friends?"

My son REDACTED got on the phone at one stage and called him names and warned him not to come around near us.

He said, "What do you want me to do?"

I said, "I want you to get help."

I asked, "How many others is there?"

He said, "A few."

He said, "I have talked to REDA about it."

REDACTED is REDACTED

He said, REDACTED seems to be alright."

I remember him saying,

"It was pleasurable."

There was a long pause in the conversation

He said, "I tried to get help in Melbourne in 1975."

I only knew that he was in Melbourne in 1975 doing a course and I remember him saying that he nearly had a breakdown and had lost trust in professional people.

I said, "How do I know you are going to get help?"

He said, "I will get them to write to you."

I said, "How can you sleep with yourself at night?"

He said, "With difficulty."

At one point I remember him saying,

He said, "Whats the use anymore."

Our conversation ended somehow and I was extremely upset at what

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had transpired that night.

13. The next thing was I received a letter from him (I NOW PRODUCE THAT LETTER) and a short time later CNF received a letter from him like apologising for what he had done. I wrote a letter back to him wanting some answers for what had happened and I received a reply a short time later. (I PRODUCE THAT LETTER). REDACTED

REDACTED

14. CNF is receiving treatment from a psychologist about the matter and we were deciding how to best handle the situation. The next thing on the news I heard a story about a Priest being charged with sexual assault offences in the Newcastle area. Soon after CNF decided that he should come forward and complain about what Vince RYAN had done to him so I made contact with the Police.

15. Father Vincent RYAN was a close friend of our family and trusted member of my family and church. REDACTED

REDACTED I trusted him as a friend and as a Catholic Priest. REDACTED

REDACTED I feel that I am still in shock and am so angry that he could do something like that and I don't think he realises the harm that he has caused. REDACTED

Witness: REDACTED

Signature: REDACTED