

New South Wales Police

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v2.5

STATEMENT in the matter of:

Place: Newcastle

Father Vincent RYAN

Police Station

Date : 4 October 1995

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

Tel. No.: REDACTED

Occupation: 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 56 years of age.

REDACTED

4. In 1975 I was living at REDACTED I lived there with my husband and REDACTED children. My children went to St Josephs Catholic Primary School at Merewether/The Junction. My eldest son was going to Marist Brothers HAMILTON. REDACTED was in year five at that year with his sister REDACTED who was also in year five. REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED His

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teacher that year was Mr Chris HALLINAN. REDACTED attended St Josephs from Primary School through to year six before attending Marist Brothers High School.

5. REDACTED was a good child and was extremely keen on sport at school. REDACTED

REDACTED H REDACTED

REDACTED During his school time he was also an altar boy for St Josephs Catholic Church which is joined to the primary school. His instructing Priest was Father Vincent RYAN. The Parish Priest when Peter was in year five was Monsignor COTTER and the school principal was Sister Margaret Anne. She was an excellent Nun and principal, she was replaced the next year by Sister URSULA.

6. I remember REDACTED used to go to altar boy practice held over in the sacristy after school. This is an area where the wine and bread are kept and the Priest and altar boys get dressed.

7. I remember in 1975 it was after school I can't remember the day but I remember it was warm and the kids were at a park playing. I remember on this day that my daughter REDACTED who was 11 years old came running into the house and she said something, She said, "You'll have to do something about Father RYAN."

I said, "What are you talking about?"

She said, "You'll have to ask REDACTED He chases the boys everywhere."

I said, "Well theres nothing wrong with chasing boys."

REDACTED then came home and he wasn't the type of boy that would talk very much. REDACTED used to do the talking for him. I started asking questions to REDACTED about what REDACTED had told me about. He was quiet at first he didn't want to say much at all.

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I said, "Whats the problem what is [REDACTED] saying?"

He said, "He's been playing with my 'whizzer'."

I said, "Don't be silly Priests don't do that."

At the time my family was very much practising Catholics and we were heavily involved with the Church. I couldn't really believe what I had heard. I was shocked. If it wasn't for [REDACTED] who kept saying, "You've got to do something." I would have thought the story was made up. I kept asking questions.

8. The first thing I did was telephoned my husband [REDACTED] at work. I told him I had some disturbing information that I couldn't believe. We then discussed what [REDACTED] had told us, and decided that he should talk to the kids when he got home from work and decide what to do about the matter. When discussing the issue with my husband I felt I could go and see Monsignor COTTER because I worked with him and felt I had a good understanding with him. I felt before I could make that sort of accusation I needed to speak with someone else who was involved.

9. I then went with [REDACTED] that afternoon just before tea time and spoke to Phylis McDONALD another mother whose son Gerard was in [REDACTED] year. I spoke to her while [REDACTED] and Gerard played in the back yard. We then called the two boys inside the house and thats when I remember Gerard saying something, I cannot remember what he said exactly but he told us something like,

"He put our wee wee in his mouth."

I was absolutely horrified at what I heard and couldn't grasp the concept that something like this could happen. Phylis and I talked about it and she decided that she would go and see Monsignor COTTER. I remember her being very insistent in speaking with him rather than me. I then left with [REDACTED] and went home.

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10. The next day I telephoned Phylis and had a conversation with her,

She said, "I've been to see Monsignor COTTER and its been taken care of the Priest has been sent to Melbourne for rehabilitation."

In my mind I believed that it had been admitted by the Father and the Church had dealt with the matter. I never spoke to Phylis or anyone else again.

11. Back in 1975, our family we held the church in high regard and the Priests, Nuns and members of the Catholic Church. This subject was never one that was spoken about back then in those days. The church was very close knit and always helped out each other in times of need. The church made a decision about this matter back then and it was generally accepted that the decision was final and that Father RYAN had been sent to a Monestry in Melbourne for rehabilitation. I believed that he would be rehabilitated for a number of years.

12. During the years I have never forgotten the incident and I've kept a close eye on REDACTED throughout his growing up to see if he may have been affected by the incident. I've asked numerous people over the years about what ever happened to Father RYAN but nobody ever really knew what had happened to him.

Witness

REDACTED

Signature: -

REDACTED