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New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in the matter of:
Sexual Assault by Father Vincent RYAN

Place: REDACTED
REDACTED

Date : 6 January, 1990

Name: CNC

Address: REDACTED

Tel. No.: REDACTED

Occupation: Pensioner

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 74 years of age.

REDACTED

4. In 1975, my youngest son REDACTED was in fifth class at school at St Josephs Catholic Primary School at Merewether. REDACTED did most of his primary schooling at St Josephs. He then went to Marist Brothers High School through to his HSC at Hamilton.

5. When REDACTED was attending St Josephs Primary I was involved with the school as a mother involved in the tuckshop and other school activities. In 1975 the school principal was Sister

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Margaret Anne, the Parish Priest was Monsignor COTTER and his assisting priest was Father Vincent RYAN. The church is in the same grounds of the school and was combined with Church and school activities. REDACTED teacher was Christopher HALLINAN and during this year REDACTED started as an altar boy with the church. I remember during these years I was a regular church goer and practising catholic.

6. I remember in 1975 it was the last Thursday of school, and year 6 were having their farewell with year 5 students, at National Park. I remember this incident because I was at the function working in the tuckshop. My son REDACTED was their as a year five student.

7. I remember an incident occurring at the park between some of the year five students and Father Vincent RYAN. I remember Gerard McDONALD singing out "You bloody poofter." He was singing out this towards Father Vincent RYAN. I then saw Father Vincent RYAN whack him in what I describe as a backhander. I remember Gerard being knocked over onto the ground. I remember him crying and I remember saying to somebody, "Bring him over to me." I gave him a drink to settle him down. I said to Gerard, "You don't call a Priest a name like that." Gerard said, "He is He is." I said, "What do you mean?" Gerard then told me that Father RYAN had took his penis out of his pants and that stuff had come out of his penis and that Father RYAN had got him to wipe it up with a handkerchief. Gerard was still crying so I settled him down. After a while I left the park and took the class back to school. I then went to speak with Sister Margaret Anne. I spoke to her outside a classroom and I told her what

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had happened at the oval. I remember saying to her, "Sister if its true something will have to be done, and if its not true then something will still have to be done." By this I meant that if it wasn't true that the boys would have to be spoken to about saying things like that. Sister was taken back by what I had told her and I think she told me to leave it with her or something to that effect.

8. I then left the school and the next thing I remember was receiving a telephone call from Sister Margaret Anne. She rang to verify that she had spoken to the boys and they had all told her the same story. She then went onto to say, something like leave it with her she would handle it. I thought at the time I was pleased that she was handling it, I was that stunned by what i had learnt, I was in a state of shock.

9. The next thing I was aware of was that Father RYAN was sent away from the school for treatment. I cannot remember how or why he was sent away but it was the highlight of the year for Parish gossip a topic like this.

10. Things went along normal after that to my knowledge, until my son REDACTED was at Marist Brothers Hamilton. I was at the church service at the Sacred Heart Church to welcome in the year seven boys. I was sitting with REDACTED and some other boys from St Josephs Primary. The other boys were Gerard McDONALD, Scott HALLETT and some of the other altar boys. I remember during the service one of the boys said, "Whats that poofter doing here?" I saw that Father Vincent RYAN was present at the service. I remember that the boys refused to get up and take communion. I

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tried to encourage them to go up, but they were frightened of Father RYAN. I remember saying to them, "You'll be alright I'm with you." I remember after the service receiving a phone call from Mrs McDONALD speaking to me about father RYAN being back. I remember her saying, "Gerard doesn't want to go to school tomorrow because hes afraid he'll get into trouble." I advised her to speak to a brother of the school.

11. I can't remember much else about Father RYAN and he seemed to disappear from our Parish. The subject wasn't really talked about over the years, I believe that my son REDACTED wasn't involved in the incident with Father RYAN.

12. I remember an incident similar to this one occurring up the coast somewhere years later. I received a phone call from a lady, she told me that the same Father who committed the offences up the coast was Father RYAN. I told her she was wrong its not him. I remember going to speak to Father HUGHES at the time because I wanted to see if it was the same Priest. I was afraid that the boys would be harmed if it was brought up again and it wasn't the same Priest. After talking to Father HUGHES about the subject he got up and walked away from me and he didn't want to know, he left me sitting there. I thought to my self well bugger you and I haven't been to church since. I lost my faith in the church, I felt embarrassed by the Priests treatment and was concerned about the kids.

Witness REDACTED

CNC

Signature: _