

New South Wales Police

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v2.6STATEMENT in the matter of:
Father Vincent Gerard RYANPlace: MCSN SCU
Police Station

Date : 20 November 1996

Name: Michael John MALONE

Address: [REDACTED] / West. 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 57 years of age.

3. I am the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. I have been in this position since the 3rd of November, 1995. I was appointed to the position after the retirement of Bishop Leo CLARKE. I have been in the Priesthood for thirty two years and have served originally in the Arch Diocese of Sydney in a number of Parishes from 1965 to 1985 inclusive. I then served in the Diocese of Parramatta for around two years until 1988 and then I served in the Diocese of Broken Bay until 1988 to the end of 1994. At the beginning of 1995 I was appointed Coadjutor until my present position.

4. Within the Maitland Newcastle Diocese Father Bill BURSTON the Vicar General who is my second in command, mentioned to me that one of Father Vince RYAN's alleged victims had visited him at his home in Mayfield West at the Catholic Presbytery. Father Bill informed me that during the course of their conversation

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Signature: Michael Malone

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Name: Michael John MALONE

together the alleged victim requested some kind of financial compensation from the Church. Father BURSTON informed me that he suggested to the victim that he would have to speak to myself which he did. Father BURSTON and I discussed the matter and decided that the victim should seek legal assistance in either pressing charges against Father RYAN or seek advice in regard to seeking financial compensation from the Church. Our conversation was such that if we initiated discussions with the alleged victim that it would seem that the Church would be either (a) attempting to avoid the Church's responsibilities in the area, and (b) that it would be perceived that the Church was attempting to either cover up this situation and avoid its responsibility. As a result of this conversation Father Bill BURSTON was instructed to convey our conclusions to the alleged victim. I learnt from Father Bill BURSTON that the alleged victim was unhappy with our conclusion but was likely to follow the advice we had given him. In late July 1996 Senior Constable GRANT from the Major Crime Squad at Newcastle came to my chancery and spoke to me and father BURSTON. He informed me that a complaint against Father RYAN had been made by a victim and that the victim had approached the Church for compensation. I then made arrangements to supply the Police with a statement about my knowledge of the approach made by the alleged victim.

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Witness:

Signature: Michael Malone