

RECORD OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN P.C. SENIOR CONSTABLE T W GRANT
AND DOCTOR PETER JOHN EVANS AT 189 AURBURN ROAD HAWTHORN 3122
ON THURSDAY, THE 7 DECEMBER, 1995.

P.C. SENIOR CONSTABLE T W GRANT (TYPIST)

ALSO PRESENT: DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE VIKKI JONES

TIME COMMENCED: 3:53pm

Q.1 As I have explained to you I am Senior Constable GRANT from the Major Crime Squad North Region from Newcastle New South Wales, and this is Detective Senior Constable Vikki JONES from the Child Exploitation Unit of Victoria Police. We are investigating alleged sexual assaults committed by Father Vincent Gerard RYAN at Merewether New South Wales in 1975. Do you understand that??

A. Yes.

Q.2 We wish to ask you a number of questions that relate to our investigation concerning contact that you had with Father Vincent RYAN in 1976 in Melbourne Victoria. Do you understand that??

Yes.

For the purpose of this record of interview could you please state your full name date of birth and address??

Peter John EVANS [REDACTED], 1933, [REDACTED] Hawthorn.

What is your occupation??

Psychiatrist.

Q.5 Where did you obtain your qualifications??

A. Sydney University.

Q.6 How long have you been a psychiatrist??

A. Since 1969 the beginning of my training, graduated from medicine in 1957 and became a member of the Australian and New Zealand college of psychiatrists in 1973.

Q.7 Can you tell me what your occupation was in 1975.?

A. I was director of Fransican Retreat House Sackville street KEW and I was a psychiatrist.

Q.8 Can you tell me what the role of the Fransican Retreat House was in 1975??

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Handwritten notes on the left margin: "C.E.S. Melbourne" and "D.J. Evans" with a checkmark.

Handwritten signature on the right side of the page.

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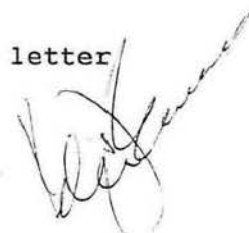
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- A. It was a house of prayer and a place of religious retreat of priest religious and laty.
- Q.9 Is it correct that your were a Priest with the Catholic Church at this time??
- A. Yes, of the Fransican order.
- Q.10 Can you tell me if you know Father Vincent RYAN??
- A. Yes. I have only met him not really know him.
- Q.11 Can you tell me how you know Father Vincent RYAN??
- A. I was asked to see him and did so in January or late January or early February, 1976 at the request of CND
- Q.12 Can you tell me what the circumstances were that led you to meet Father RYAN??
- A. Yes I was asked to see him with respect to a problem concerning sexual behaviour and for which behaviour he had been reported to the Diocesan authorities?
- Q.13 Can you tell me if you know who the Diocesan authority was at this time in 1975??
- A. I didn't recall that until you told me that it was Monsignor COTTER.
- Q.14 Do you recall the Diocese that Monsignor COTTER was attached to in 1975??
- A. Maitland I knew Father RYAN was attached to Maitland I assumed Monsignor COTTER was too.

I NOW SHOW DOCTOR EVANS A ONE PAGE PHOTOCOPY OF A LETTER ADDRESSED TO HIM DATED DECEMBER 16 1975.

- Q.15 I now show you a photocopy of a letter dated 16 December, 1975 addressed to you by Monsignor COTTER?? Can you tell me anything about this letter?
- A. I have no recollection of seeing this letter I recall only seeing ^{CND} S referral letter. I know no reason why this letter wouldn't be with my files with everything else.
- Q.16 Is it possible that you may have received a letter similar to this relating to this matter??

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- A. Yes its possible but its also possible that I didn't.
- Q.17 In what circumstance would it have been that you didn't receive this letter??
- A. No I don't know I think I would have remembered that letter.
- Q.18 Do all patients have to have a referral to see you?? (QUESTION FROM JONES)
- A. Yes a medical practioner had to refer them.
- Q.19 Did everybody had to have a referral to see you at the retreat house??
- A. No only to see me in my capacity as a Psychiatrist not as a Priest. People used to see me as a Priest who was also a pyschiartist.
- Q.20 Can you tell me what happened when you first met Father RYAN??
- A. Yes I agreed to see Father RYAN for assessment only as I was terminating practice in Melbourne and leaving both the priest hood and was also leaving for England in a matter of weeks from that date.
- Q.21 Can you tell me what transcribed when you assessed father RYAN??
- A. Yes I assessed Father RYAN during one hour interview, in late January, 1976, he admitted to being sexually attracted to boys from adolescence his current distress was precipitated by the reporting of some event. He admitted but did not elaborate on any sexual misdemeanours, he reveals that he was an only child made few friends and was a socially isolated person. His sexual history revealed masturbation with a fellow seminarian this was his initial sexual experience. He revealed that he masturbated approximately once every two months. His medical history revealed a range of psychomatsomatic symptoms indicative of a tense personality. His family history revealed a father who drank and was depressed and who he had an unsatisfactory relationship. He related well to his mother although he felt there was no affection. Inquiry revealed that there was no evidence of major depressive illness present.
- Q.22 Where did this assessment take place??

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- A. At the Fransican retreat House Sackville street KEW.
- Q.23 Did you take any notes during your assessment??
- A. Yes.
- Q.24 Can you tell me if you made any further assessment of Father RYAN at the time??
- A. Yes I assessed that he was not suffering from depression but suffered from a personality disorder with immature features both emotionally and sexually. He also suffered from psychosomatic disorder which is a medical term for manifesting itself within a variety of medical conditions such as asthma collitis and tension headaches. I questioned his motivation for treatment in view of the fac that he had come only of a result of these matters being discovered. That is an important thing that in psychiatric that referrals as a result of Police investigations or investigations by an authority indicate a poorer prognosis. It basically means if they don't come of their own free will you start from the back of the starting line. I emphasised the importance of his accepting full responsibility of his own treatment and management if these problems were to be addressed. I explained that I was not in a position or would no longer be at La Verna in the future and that any treatment was best achieved in his own environment. I said to him in regard to his responsibility that it had to come from him to solve this problem otherwise the chances of solving this problem would be very poor. I told him that there were any number of qualified people who could provide help
- Q.25 Can you tell me if you had a conversation with him in regard to Criminal consequences of his behaviour, that he was consulting you about??
- A. I can't recall that I would have deemed it a questions. I cannot recall if I discussed with him the legal consequences of his behaviour. i would have deemed with his knowledge of the Cannon Law the consequences of his behaviour.
- Q.26 What does Cannon law state in regard to the consequences of this type of behaviour??
- A. I can't quote the actual Cannon law it is clearly a breach of pastoral, a duty of pastoral care. Its much the same as a Doctor having sexual affairs with patients, it would bring immediate dismissal from the medical board.

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Q.27 Can you tell me what the bible states in regard to the consequences of such behaviour that Father RYAN was speaking to you about??

A. The bible doesn't , it isn't appropriate to discuss the actual bible but the teachings of the church, it teaches clearly that such behaviour is a serious sin and without confession would exclude him from celebration of mass, and the reception of other sacraments. It wasn't clear to me at the time that he was a repetitive offender.

Q.28 Was it normal for a person to see you for a single offence or repetitive offender? (QUESTION BY JONES)

A. It was normal for a single episode rarely for repetitive.

Q.29 Did you speak to anybody else about your assessment of Father RYAN? (QUESTION BY JONES)

A. No that would have been a breach of confidentiality

Q.30 When father RYAN spoke to you did it concern you that he did not disclose details to you?? (QUESTION BY JONES)

A. No he behaved within his personality as I assessed, I did not know the details of the events.

Q.31 Were aware that he was to be returned to the Parish after treatment?? (QUESTION BY JONES)

A. No I didn't know what was going to happen to him in maitland. La Verna retreat House was not a treatment centre in way suitable for Father RYAN. I explicitly did not enter into any treatment agreement and referred him back for appropriate and available treatment closer to his own diocese. There are several good reasons for that the church tends to send people away, it does not work, it is bad because it takes them away from their own area away from support and could lead to further offences. I did not and would not condone.

Q.32 Do you wish to make any further statement??

A. By 1975 major changes had begun to take place in the Catholic Church. With respect to the attitude of the faithful to church authority. For the first time Catholics were prepared or were beginning to confront authority concerning a variety of misdemeanours of the clergy including sexual offences. The response of the church was still an

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authoritarian one confrontation still tended to be suppressed, problem priest were 'sent' for treatment, without due consideration for the implication and outcome. The church in many ways attempted to disassociate itself from the misdemeanours I'm talking general from drugs alcohol and sexual relationships in this misdemeanours. I do not think that the 'cover up' was malicious but reflected the culture of the time. Over the past twenty years major changes have occurred both in the readiness of the laity to reveal the failing of the clergy and in the churches greater readiness to acknowledge openly these failings. Its because of this that sexual offences hitherto conceal are belatedly being brought out to the open. At the same time the clergy involved must be held to have full responsibility of their behaviour. They would be well aware of the implications both for their priestly ministry and for society generally.

Q.33 Is there anything further you wish to tell me about this matter.?

A. No.

Q.34 have the answers you have given in this record of interview been the truth?

A. To the best of my knowledge Yes.

Q.35 Have you given these answers of your free will??

A. Yes.

INTERVIEW STOPPED AT 5:49pm

Interview Concluded: 5.49pm

WITNESS: REDACTED ..

T W Grant
P.C. Senior Constable
Major Crime Squad North Region
7 December, 1995.

