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STATES My full name is BAE my date of birth is the REDAC  
REDAC 1930. I am working at home doing home duties.

I wish to make a statement in relation to an incident that happened some time ago in 1978 my son BAF was molested by a priest named Gerald RIDSDALE. Gerry has since been convicted at court and is serving a gaol sentence in Pentridge Prison. My son told me in 1987 that he had been molested by Gerry many years before so I rang the bishops office in Ballarat to complain. I wanted to speak with Bishop MULKEARNS but I was put onto to the Bishops secretary Reverend Father Brian McDERMOTT instead.

Father Mc DERMOTT asked me what I was calling about and then I told him that my son had been molested by father Gerald RIDSDALE. Father Mc DERMOTT said to me, "I usually handle these matters." He said he was going to Melbourne and that we could meet there. I agreed as I was going to Melbourne that day also. Father Mc DERMOTT said "We can meet so we can see what can be done." That phone call lasted about 5 minutes.

The following Tuesday in August, 1987, I met with Father Mc DERMOTT at the Catholic Diocesan Centre in, I think Albert St East Melbourne. That day was one of the worst days of my life, Father Mc DERMOTT said that it was our fault and inferred that it was BAF's fault and that BAF had encouraged Gerry. Father Mc DERMOTT was a large man and was very overpowering, I however defended BAF and told him that it wasn't the case. I said to father that BAF was only a bit of a kid and that Gerry was a man of my age. I can't remember what he said back to me, but I left after about 40 minutes, I was very upset.

The following Friday, still in August, 1987, I rang the Bishops office and again I got Father Mc DERMOTT. He said that he had passed on my concerns to the Bishop and that Bishop MULKEARNS had spoken to Gerry about his behaviour.

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I told him I wasn't happy and that I wasn't satisfied that Gerry had only been spoken to. I wanted more action than that. I said to Mc DERMOTT that Gerry should be in a clerical position, and away from boys. Father Mc DERMOTT said " The Bishop will not be told what to do." This comment was made in regard to the fact that I wanted to know why Gerry was still in the position of Parish Priest at Edenhope. This call lasted about 2 or 3 minutes. At that time of the phone call Gerry was still in contact with a lot of young boys. In fact Gerry might have been working in Horsham at that time. I was bothered by the local rumours about Gerry taking young boys around with him, I was concerned he might do the same thing as he did to BAF

In the following few days after the phone call I wrote to the bishop, I have supplied the Police with a copy of that letter. I said in the letter that I wasn't happy with Gerry's behaviour and I wanted to know why he was still in a Parish Priests position.

I received a letter from the Bishop some time latter which was vague and did not answer any of my questions. My son has given the Police a copy of that letter with my authority.

I had some personal contact with the Bishop MULKEARNS via the telephone on numerous special occasions like when my husband died. He asked me how BAF's counselling was going. My solicitor wrote to the Bishop informing him that we were taking legal action, as I was still not satisfied that any action had been taken by the Church.

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Statement taken and signature witnessed by me at  
4pm on 12-JUL-95 at MELBOURNE.

L.N. Mc KENZIE Constable 28580

I hereby acknowledge that this statement is true and correct and I make it in the belief that  
a person making a false statement in the circumstances is liable to the penalties of perjury.

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Acknowledgment taken and signature witnessed by me.

L.N. Mc KENZIE Constable 28580