



RUSSELL SAVAGE MLA

Member for Mildura



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23 March 1998

Mr N (Neil) Comrie
 APM BA Assoc Dip CKA
 Chief Commissioner of Police
 PO Box 415
 MELBOURNE VIC 3005

Dear Sir,

I am writing again on behalf of Denis Ryan, former Detective Senior Constable 11468.

On 18 August 1997 I wrote to you seeking FOI assistance on behalf of Mr Ryan. On 11 November 1997, some three months later, a letter was received and signed by Mr P Lock, Acting Superintendent. This letter (reference:6-2-14392/97) offered very limited access to the documents sought.

To date, and some 7 months later, Mr Ryan has not had the courtesy of even receiving a copy of his personnel file.

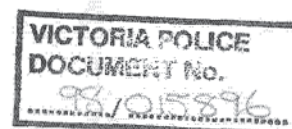
Mr Ryan had a distinguished career that included some 13 commendatory entries. Surely he is entitled to a copy of this document? The tardiness that is being shown to the Ryan request is now causing me some concern.

The Monsignor Day affair, and the Police handling of the investigation, has had a devastating effect on the Mildura community which lasts until today. When a report of the apparent interference and cover-up of the matter by police appeared last year, Mr Ryan was again distressed for the victims who still await justice.

Mr Denis Ryan, as your records will show was the initial investigating officer who made detailed inquiries into the serious complaints of the paedophile behaviour by Monsignor Day. These complaints were initiated by the Vice Principal of St Joseph's College, Mr John Howden and Principal, Sister Ann Pancratious.

Detective Sergeant Jim Barrett, the Detective-in-Charge at the time of the Mildura CIB at the time, interfered in the investigation and Ryan was subsequently directed by Chief Inspector Irwin to cease all enquiries.

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The next series of events saw Ryan placed on the afternoon shift divisional van. This decision to place a detective on the van was peculiar and I have never heard of a similar supervisory decision. Barrett was a close friend of Monsignor Day and colluded with him.

The prosecution was never proceeded with, despite the possibility of sufficient evidence being obtained, had appropriate investigation continued.

Ryan was directed to be transferred back to Russell Street. It is apparent that there was a conspiracy to veto the investigation.

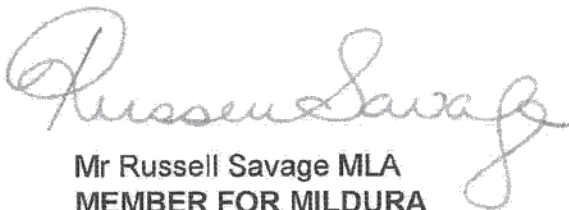
This injustice resulted in the resignation of S/D Ryan. As a Senior Detective, Ryan did his job in protecting the innocent and pursuing the guilty, namely Day. The behaviour of Police Command of 1971-2 in failing to prosecute Day and forcing the resignation of Ryan is disgraceful. Because of this failure to prosecute Day, he subsequently became the Parish Priest at Timboon. How many more victims were there as a consequence of this appalling exercise?

I now ask formally that a review be conducted of the Ryan-Day affair with the purpose of establishing the truth and for a public apology to Mr Ryan for the reprehensible treatment he received from the Department which caused his forced resignation.

Mr Ryan is not looking for financial compensation but for an acknowledgment that he did his duty in accordance with the traditions of the Victoria Police, namely, "Uphold the Right".

I now hope that a more efficient, sympathetic and cooperative approach is shown to Mr Ryan. The injustice suffered by Mr Ryan needs to be addressed. He did his job well and was vilified as a consequence.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Russell Savage MLA
MEMBER FOR MILDURA