

FACT SHEET GENERAL

v2.5

DEFENDANT: Father Vincent Gerard RYAN D.O.B.: REDACTED 1938

Address: C/O Junee Correctional Centre

COURT & DATE: Cooma Local Court on the 19 March, 1997.

OFFENCES:

1. Indecent Assault Sect 81
2. Indecent Assault "
3. Indecent Assault "
4. Act of Indecency Sect 81A
5. Act of Indecency "
6. Indecent Assault Sect 81
7. Indecent Assault
8. Indecent Assault
9. Indecent Assault
10. Act of Indecency Sect 81A
11. Indecent Assault Sect 81
12. Indecent Assault "
13. Indecent Assault "
14. Sexual Assault Cat III
15. Indecent Assault Sect 81
16. Sexual Assault Cat III
17. Sexual Assault Cat III
18. Indecent Assault Sect 81
19. Sexual Assault Cat III
20. Sexual Assault Cat III
21. Sexual Assault Cat III
22. Sexual Assault Cat III
23. Sexual Assault Cat III
24. Sexual Assault Cat III
25. Indecent Assault Sect 81
26. Indecent Assault "
27. Indecent Assault "
28. Indecent Assault "
29. Indecent Assault "
30. Indecent Assault "
31. Indecent Assault "
32. Indecent Assault "
33. Indecent Assault "
34. Indecent Assault "
35. Act of Indecency Towards Sect 81A
36. Indecent Assault Sect 81
37. Indecent Assault "
38. Indecent Assault "
39. Indecent Assault "
40. Indecent Assault "

COMPLETED BY

CHECKED BY

Signature

REDACTED

Signature:

Name

Name:

Rank

Rank:

Date

Date:

FACTS RE FATHER VINCENT GERARD RYAN CONT.

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- 41. Indecent Assault "
- 42. Indecent Assault "
- 43. Indecent Assault "
- 44. Indecent Assault "
- 45. Indecent Assault "
- 46. Indecent Assault "
- 47. Indecent Assault "
- 48. Indecent Assault "
- 49. Act of Indecency Towards Sect 78Q(1)
- 50. Aggravated Indecent Assault Sect 610(1)

INFORMANT: P.C. Senior Constable T W Grant, Major Crime Squad
North, NEWCASTLE

WITNESSES REQUIRED: Police Four (4), Civilian Thirty Five (35).

UNAVAILABLE DATES: (Attached)

BAIL: Refused due to defendant being in custody on similar matters.

ANTECEDENTS: Attached. Currently serving minimum four year term for similar offences.

FULL FACTS:

HAMILTON 1979-1983
EAST GRESFORD 1984

Father Vincent Gerard RYAN returned to the Maitland Catholic Diocese from Melbourne in 1977. He was moved to Melbourne in 1976 by the Diocesan Vicar Capitular Monsignor COTTER to seek Psychiatric assistance. This assistance was after the notification to the Diocese of similar offences for which he is currently serving a term of imprisonment. After one consultation FR RYAN was advised by Father/Doctor Peter EVANS from La Verna Retreat House in Kew Victoria to return to his home area to seek help to address his attraction to young boys. EVANS told RYAN that success with any treatment relied upon him to seek the necessary help. Father RYAN chose to stay in Melbourne until 1977 to undertake a Pastoral institute course. Upon his return to the Maitland Diocese, he was appointed to administrative duties in the Diocese including an appointment with the matrimonial tribunal at the Royal Newcastle Hospital.

In August, 1978 Father RYAN took up residence at the Sacred Heart, Hamilton Presbytery. He continued administrative duties until being appointed to the Sacred Heart Church as assistant

REDACTED

Signature: Date: 14 March 1997
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FACTS RE FATHER VINCENT GERARD RYAN CONT. PAGE 3

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Priest to Monsignor COTTER. During his time as assistant Priest FR RYAN met the victims [REDACTED] [REDACTED] students at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary school. Between 1979 to 1983 FR RYAN encouraged the boys aged between approximately 8 to 10 years of age into the Presbytery where he would give them soft drinks, supply them with pornographic magazines and movies and perform sexual acts towards and upon them. These acts included masturbation, oral sexual intercourse and one attempt at anal intercourse. The defendant continued a sexual relationship with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] after he transferred to the Parish at East Gresford. FR RYAN became the Parish Priest and stayed in contact with them up until his arrest for other matters. He used to entice the victims with outings, money and special privileges to encourage them to have sex with him. The assaults with these victims ceased after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] grew into teenagers and stopped participating in sexual acts. The defendant kept in contact with these two victims, with birthday cards, letters and visits. The victims allege that they were photographed naked and with erections with an instamatic camera. These photo's were kept in a photo album. The victims claim they were assaulted on approximately 150 occasions.

On Tuesday 27 August, 1996 Police had a Section 28 order to remove the defendant from Cooma Correctional Centre for interviewing. He was interviewed at the Cooma Police Station in the presence of his solicitor Mr Gerard PHILLIPS (Carol & O'Dea Solicitors) by way of E.R.I.S.P. During this interview the defendant made admissions in relation to assaults upon the victims. He was charged and taken before the Clerk of the Local Court where bail was formally refused.

CURRENT CHARGES

INDECENT ASSAULT [REDACTED]

SECT 81

CHARGES 1-3

Between 15/2/80 and 31/12/80 on a weekend the defendant picked up the victims at their homes and drove them to Point X a beach area for nudist bathers in the Newcastle area. He took the victims there to swim and 'have a perv'. At this time the victim [REDACTED] nearly drowned and was rescued by a nudist surfer. The victims and RYAN returned to the Sacred Heart Church where they went to the Parish Hall and played snooker and video games in the Youth Hall area. They then went into a back room where there was a large table. The defendant pulled the curtains and then performed masturbation and oral sex on the victims. They then were driven home by the defendant. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Signature: [REDACTED]

Name: [REDACTED]

Date: 14 March 1997

Rank: P.C. Senior Constable

FACTS RE FATHER VINCENT GERARD RYAN CONT.

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BILLED TO APPEAR AT COOMA LOCAL COURT ON THE 19 MARCH, 1997.FRESH CHARGESACT OF INDECENCYSECT 81A

Between 15/2/79 and 1/6/79 the victims REDAC and REDACTED were playing in the school yards after school at Hamilton. It was in the summer time when Father RYAN approached them and invited them into the Bell Tower of the Sacred Heart Church. REDAC aged 8 and REDACTED aged 9 were students in the second class at Sacred Heart Primary school. They climbed to the top of the Bell tower where RYAN encouraged them to play a game. He took his penis out of his trousers and measured it against some brickwork and made a mark. He then encouraged both victims to do the same which they did and RYAN made marks with mortar on the bricks to measure the lengths of their penis's.

REDACTED

CHARGES 4-5

INDECENT ASSAULTSECT 81

The defendant then invited them to his Presbytery bedroom where he would show them how to 'cum'. The victims followed him into his bedroom where the defendant gave them soft drinks and then undressed and masturbated and ejaculated in front of the victims before having them undress and he then masturbated each of the victims until REDAC urinated. They cleaned up and then the defendant drove the victims to their homes handing them money and telling them to keep it a secret. REDA aged 8, REDACTED aged 9.

REDACTED

CHARGES 6-7

INDECENT ASSAULTSECT 81ACT OF INDECENCYSECT 81A

Approximately two months later between 15/2/79 and 1/6/79 the victim REDACTED missed the bus because he had a REDACTED with him. He saw REDAC and REDACTED playing in the school yard so he joined them. They suggested if he waited Fr RYAN would drive him home. Soon after the defendant came along and took the three into his Presbytery gave them soft drinks and then undressed and masturbated himself, REDACTED and REDACTED was encouraged to join in however was shy and only half undressed before standing behind a cupboard in the room and watched the masturbation. After RYAN had finished he drove the victims home. REDAC and REDACTED encouraged REDACTED to keep the event a secret and to join them next time. REDACTED aged 8, REDACTED aged 9.

REDACTED

CHARGES 8-9

REDACTED

CHARGE 10

REDACTED

Signature: .
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FACTS RE FATHER VINCENT GERARD RYAN CONT. PAGE 5

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INDECENT ASSAULT

REDACTED

SECT 81

CHARGES 11-13

Between 15/2/79 - 20/12/79 in the presbytery at Hamilton the defendant asked the victims if they were interested in watching a pornographic video. During this time the video arrived and RYAN took REDACTED and REDACTED into his bed undressed and played the video, 'Johnny WADD'. They watched the video while masturbating themselves and each other. A scene on the video depicted oral sex and the defendant asked, 'Can we try that?', the victims agreed and the defendant then performed oral sex on the victims REDACTED and REDACTED. He later masturbated until he ejaculated and then he took the boys home. REDACTED 8 old, REDACTE 9 old.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CAT III

REDACTED

SECT 61D(1A)

CHARGES 14, 16

INDECENT ASSAULT

REDACTED

SECT 81

CHARGE 15

Between 1/11/80 and 31/12/80 towards the end of the year in the school holidays the defendant took the victims and another altar server REDACTED to 'Ton-O-Fun' Forster for an excursion. After they returned to Newcastle REDACTED was dropped off home and the victims returned to the Presbytery where they went into the Presbytery and watched pornographic videos and masturbated. The defendant then sexually assaulted the victims by performing oral sex on REDACTED and REDACTED while masturbating REDACTE. REDACTED 10 old, REDACTE 11 old.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CAT III

REDACTED

SECT 61D(1A)

CHARGES 17, 19

INDECENT ASSAULT

REDACTED

SECT 81

CHARGE 18

Between 15/2/82 and 31/12/82 the victims were in the Presbytery at Hamilton where they were masturbated by the defendant and had oral sex performed on them while they watched pornographic videos. The defendant then gave each victim a sum of money and he drove them to a video arcade in Hunter street Newcastle where they played video games 'Donkey Kong' before being driven home. REDACTED 11 old. REDACTE 12 old.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CAT III

REDACTED

SECT 61D(1A)

CHARGES 20

Between 1/1/82 and 31/12/82 the victim was a member REDACTED representing the altar servers at Hamilton. He attended monthly meetings with the defendant. After each meeting the defendant took the victim to the Presbytery at Hamilton where masturbated and performed oral sex on the victim.

REDACTED

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FACTS RE FATHER VINCENT GERARD RYAN CONT.

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REDACTED

SECT 61D(1A)

CHARGES 21-22

Between 15/2/83 and 31/12/83 the victims REDACT and REDACT were with the defendant in the Hamilton Presbytery. They were masturbating and performing oral sex on the defendant bed whilst watching pornographic videos. The defendant then asked the victims if he could perform anal sex on them. The victims refused and the defendant pleaded with them to try it. REDACT continued his refusal but REDACT consented to attempting to have anal sex on him. REDACT positioned himself behind the defendant who was knelt on all fours. The victim put a condom on and then in a 'doggy style' placed his penis between the defendants bum cheeks. He motioned back and forward for a short time without penetrating before he stopped. REDACT then performed oral sex on the defendant while he was wearing a condom. REDACT REDACT 13 old.

SEXUAL ASSAULT CAT III

REDACTED

SECT 61D(1A)

CHARGES 23-24

Between 1/1/84 and 31/12/84 the defendant was the Parish Priest at East Gresford. The victim REDACT during the school holidays had trouble REDACT. He was taken to stay with the defendant at East Gresford during the holidays. During his stay there the defendant masturbated and had oral sex with the victim in his bedroom. During this year REDACT also holidayed and visited on the weekends and during his stay was assaulted by the defendant with masturbation and oral sex in the spare bedroom of the Presbytery.

* * *

During his Police interview on Tuesday 27 August, 1997 in relation to the Hamilton complaints the defendant after consultation with his solicitor volunteered the names of a further seventeen (17) victims, where he described the assaults of each one. During the interview the defendant stated, Quote;

".....first I should explain why I, I didn't mention these things before and it's because at, at the time these events happened, as strange as it may seem, I didn't comprehend I was doing harm. I know you can't understand. But the whole things been lucky in the sense that I had all these months with the psychologist and the worst day I ever had with the psychologist was the day he helped me."....."The day he got to me understand that I'm gonna hurt them."....."I know I've tried to explain to you what a burden it is now to know that I hurt people whom I loved whether you can understand that or not"....."and so before I said nothing about these things because I thought since I've already

REDACTED

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hurt them, why should I now interfere with their lives. It's up to them"....."So I, I thought all the time up till I spoke to Gerard yesterday probably the best was just to let 'em come forward. But this could happen the rest of me life and I couldn't put up with that. So I'd like to mention the incidents as best I recall them as far back as I can remember." end Quote's.

In further correspondence with the defendants solicitor Police received the names of a further five (5) victims. Police then attempted to locate and contact these victims. Police were successful in contacting the majority of people however, two victims live in London England and other victims relate to offences 25 years ago. The following charges relate to statements obtained from the victims and charges on victims not located on the defendants admissions.

MAITLAND 1972-1973

INDECENT ASSAULT
SECT 81

REDACTED

CHARGES 25-29

Between 1/1/1972 and 1/6/1973 the defendant worked in an administrative capacity as Secretary for the Bishop of Maitland Catholic Diocese. During this time he resided at the Bishops House Maitland with a number of other Priests. The adjacent school was St Johns Catholic Primary school where the defendant progressively became involved with Parish work and spent time in the playgrounds of this school. He was remembered by the victims as a friendly Priest who would join in their games ranging from cricket, to red rover cross over and 'chaise' games. During this time the defendant began to 'touch' the victims to body ie/ a grab of the shoulder, holding around the waist. It is alleged and known on the defendants admissions that he then progressively began to grab and touch the victims genitals, and crotch area. Victims aged 10-11 old.

Ref; ERISP 7311/96/0044 pgs 29-31.

INDECENT ASSAULT
SECT 81

REDACTED

CHARGES 30-32

Between 1/1/1972 and 1/6/1973 the defendant became involved in the instructing of altar servers for St Johns Catholic Church. The victim REDAC first met the defendant in the playground where he remembered the defendant playing games and then grabbing hold

REDACTED

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of his genital area. He then recalls on two occasions being 'lured' to a room at the Bishops house where Fr RYAN would have him assist with a task. The defendant would then praise the victim on being an altar boy and how 'special' he was. In a closed room the defendant had the victim sit on his knee/lap area. He then began to caress the victims leg before putting his hand inside the victims short leg and onto his genital area outside the victims underpants where he fondelled the victim. A second occasion the defendant did the same thing and this occasion fondelled the victim to the inside of his underpants on his penis and testicals. The victim avoided the defendant after that. **REDACT** aged 10-11.

MEREWETHER 1973-1975

INDECENT ASSAULT

SECT 81

SECT 81A

REDACTED

CHARGES 33-35

Between 1/6/1973 and 31/12/1974 the defendant was the assistant Parish Priest to Monsignor COTTER at St Josephs Merewether. During this time he became the instructing Priest for altar boys, who trained approximately once a week and served when required. During this time Fr RYAN continued his playground activities with the children where he would 'touch' externally to the genital area children with whom he was playing and wrestling with. He be-friended a number of these children who were also altar servers. During this time he met the **REDACTED** brothers. On his own admissions the defendant drove the victims to his home address at East Maitland where he engaged in a game with the boys. He locked the younger brother **REDACTED** outside the house while he engaged in oral sex with **REDACTED**. The defendant recalls another occasion in the Sacristy of St Josephs Catholic Church Merewether he fondelled the victim **REDACTED**. He had **REDACTED** pressed against a wall in the room and he put his arm into his shorts and fondelled the victim. **REDACTED** recalls a further incident of masturbation with a victim of previous proceedings. (Gerard McDONALD) He recalls McDONALD asking if Father RYAN wanted him to have oral sex with him.

Ref; ERISP 7311/96/0044 pgs 32-33.

INDECENT ASSAULT

SECT 81

REDACTED

CHARGES 36

Between 1/6/1973 and 31/12/1973 the victims mother was in **REDACTED** and the victim went to stay with the defendant at the Presbytery Merewether. During this time the defendant masturbated in front of the victim and then had the victim masturbate him. Victim was in high school and was aged 13 old.

REDACTED

Signature: ..

Name: T

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Rank: P.C. Senior Constable

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SECT 81

REDACTED

CHARGES 37-38

Between 1/1/1974 and 31/12/1974 at Merewether the defendant fondelled the two young brothers in the playground of St Josephs Merewether, while their mother REDACTED. The boys complained to their mother CNA 's that 'Father RYAN touched my dickie bird'. CNA approached the Parish Priest Monsignor COTTER. She told him that Father RYAN had fondelled her sons and Father RYAN was brought down and questioned about the incident. Fr RYAN denied the incident but declined to have the boys put the allegation to him. Monsignor COTTER stating, 'That won't be necessary.' No action was taken by Monsignor COTTER and CNA left and stopped as a practising Catholic. Victims aged 5 and 6 years.

Ref; ERISP 7311/96/0044 pgs 36-37.

INDECENT ASSAULT
SECT 81.

REDACTED

CHARGES 39-42

During his time as the instructing Priest Father RYAN spent time with these victims REDACTED and REDACTED on altar boy picnics which were held in appreciation for their efforts during the year. These picnics were usually held at a nearby beach. During this period 1/6/1973 to 31/12/1974 at a beach the defendant at Merewether beach fondelled the victims by putting his hand inside their tights and fondel their genitals while swimming in the water. During this time he did the same thing to another victim REDACTED twice in the school yard of St Josephs Merewether, REDACTED was not an altar server. Another victim being REDACTED who Father RYAN fondelled at the school swimming carnival. Victims aged 10 to 12.

Ref; ERISP 7311/96/0044 pgs 33-35.

INDECENT ASSAULT
SECT 81

REDACTED

CHARGE 43

Between 1/1/1975 and 10/12/1975 the victim was an altar server at St Josephs Merewether. During training for this duty in the Sacristy of the Church, Father RYAN began to chase the altar boys around the room. He would chase them into a cupboard where his formal dress was housed and then inside the cupboard he would reach in and fondel the victims to the genitals. He did this to the victim who reacted by crying, Father RYAN banished him from the group of around six other victims. The victim was approached during previous proceedings however did not wish at that time to

REDACTED

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lay a complaint. He was approached again after the interview with Father RYAN and he made a statement. Victim aged 10-11.
Ref; ERISP 7311/96/0044 pgs 37.

NEWCASTLE 1977

INDECENT ASSAULT
SECT 81

REDACTED

(DECEASED) SEPTEMBER, REDACTED

CHARGE 44

Between 1/1/1977 and 31/12/1977 the defendant had returned from Melbourne and took up a position with St Mary's at the Royal Newcastle Hospital. During this time he met and indecently assaulted the victim aged 7 years of age. This incident is from the defendants recollection. The victim committed suicide in September, REDACTED in Newcastle after suffering from REDACTED.

HAMILTON/NEWCASTLE EAST 1982-1983

INDECENT ASSAULT
SECT 81

REDACTED

CHARGE 45-48

Between 1/6/1982 and 31/6/1983 The victims were students at Sacred heart Church and Newcastle East Catholic school. During this time the victim REDACTED was a friend of REDACTED. During this time the defendant invited REDACTED and REDACTED to the Presbytery at Hamilton. The defendant started to masturbate REDACTED and himself encouraging REDACTED to join in. REDACTED resisted when RYAN fondelled him on the genitals on the outside of the shorts. RYAN then showed REDACTED a number of photos of naked school mates who REDACTED recognised to be REDACTED. REDACTED never went back to the Presbytery. The defendant then made admissions to fondelling the victim REDACTED when he was a student at Newcastle East Primary school in the playground. He stated that while the victim REDACTED was in the REDACTED with his family he masturbated with the victim REDACTED. There was an admission that he fondelled the victim REDACTED while REDACTED was an altar server.

Ref; ERISP 7311/96/0044 pgs 40-41.

EAST GRESFORD 1984-1987

REDACTED

Signature: ...

Name: T W

..... Date: 14 March 1997

Rank: P.C. Senior Constable

BAILED TO APPEAR AT COOMA LOCAL COURT ON THE 19 MARCH, 1997.

ACT OF INDECENCY BY MALE ON MALE U/18

REDACTED

SECT 78Q(1)

CHARGE 49

Between 1/1/1987 and 31/12/1987 the victim was a REDACTED of the defendant. During this time the victim went on a camp to Riverwood Downs an area in the Upper Allyn region of the Upper Hunter via Gresford. During this time on his own admissions the defendant fondelled the victim REDACTED who was a student in High school at Singleton. REDACTED once went and stayed with the defendant after he moved to Cessnock in 1988, 89. The victim was fondelled on another occasion during this time. Victim aged 12
Ref; ERISP 7311/96/0044 pgs 36-37.

CESSNOCK 1988-1994

AGGRAVATED INDECENT ASSAULT

REDACTED

SECT 610(1)

CHARGE 50

Between 17/3/91 and 31/12/1991 the victim was a friend of the defendant and spent time with the Youth group at Cessnock run by the defendant. During this time the defendant fondelled the victim to the genital area. Victim aged 14.

Ref; ERISP 7311/96/0044 pgs 38.

T W Grant
PC Senior Constable
Investigator
Major Crime Squad, North
NEWCASTLE 2300
17 March, 1997.

REDACTED
DET. SGT.

REDACTED

Signature: _____
Name: _____

Date: 14 March 1997
Rank: P.C. Senior Constable