

Benedict Monagle

[REDACTED]

7<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Family & Community Development Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
East Melbourne Vic 3002

### SUBMISSION

I WISH MY SUBMISSION TO BE RECORDED IN "Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry  
Into Sexual Abuse in Religious and Other Organisations"

My Testimony is:

I had a perfect upbringing as a kid and I was a good kid. Aside from learning difficulties, things were really great.

In 1990, I attended Salesian College, Rupertswood, Sunbury, a boy's boarding school. I was an Agriculture student in year 10. The choice of this school was to prepare me for a career working in the farming industry, which I was hoping to move into the following year.

I was 16 years & 6 months old when I commenced school at Rupertswood in January 1990. Due to Dyslexia, my literacy skills were poor. My level of physical health was excellent prior to the sexual abuse attacks on me by David Rapson.

About the abuse:

During that year, 1990, I was brutally sexually attacked four times by the College Vic-Principal, Father David Rapson.

The last attack in August 1990 was the most violent.

[REDACTED]

I did not disclose these sexual attacks to anyone at that time, or, at any time during the next 22 years.

The abuse that I have suffered from David Rapson has had a huge effect on my life.

I was incredibly angry. I have had difficulties with drugs, relationships, physically not being able to go into a church where there is a priest. It has been emotionally, mentally and physically very taxing.

Over the years, my life has been unstable, I have been a drifter. My employment history has been erratic. My physical health many times is of poor quality. My mental health is managed by medication.

In November, 2012, [REDACTED] told me of a news item in The Age, regarding child sexual abuse at Rupertswood, Sunbury. Specifically about David Rapson, now an ex-priest, and who is now charged with child sexual offences in the 1990's. Did I know anything about this event? [REDACTED] asked me.

After burying the abuse I received from Rapson for 22 years and keeping it to myself, I was finally able to admit, to [REDACTED] the terrible things that happened to me in 1990.

I then set about getting my life into order.

I contacted and spoke to Detective Senior Constable Leigh Ross of the Sexual Crimes Squad, Melbourne, in December 2012.

On 08.03.2013. I gave a full Statement of my abuse, by David Rapson, to Detective Leigh Ross. My mother, Bridget Mary Monagle, also gave a signed statement to a member of the Melbourne Sexual Crimes Squad.

David Rapson's trial is to be held in August 2013. I have learned recently that David Rapson has abused other boys in at least two other States, Tasmania and South Australia.

I have not contacted the Salesian Order or any church authority about my abuse by David Rapson. I have not requested or received or been offered any payment regarding this abuse.

Since January 2013 I have been working with professional carers to restore my health:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

For my personal recovery, I would like to do a TAFE course to gain a trade certificate that will enable me to be gainfully employed, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Benedict Monagle

Date. 7/4/2013