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New South Wales Police Service  
Intelligence Information System

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## Information Report Summary

Ref No	Short Title
I 21949203	POSSIBLE PAEDOPHILE NETWORK WITHIN CATHOLIC CLERGY

Intelligence Category

PAEDOPHILES

Status	REVIEWED
Security	IN-CONFIDENCE
Source	POLICE OFFICER
Admiralty Rating	A 1 CONFIRMED

Event Date From	30/08/2004 to 30/08/2004
Event Time From	15:00 to 15:01

Police Operation	ANPR Session(
Submitting Station	MAITLAND
Submitting Officer	FOX, PETER RAYMOND

Narrative

POI 1. *WR 76*

POI 2. FLETCHER, JAMES PATRICK  
RECTORY, 44 STATION ST, BRANXTON, NSW, 2335

POI 3. RYAN, VINCENT GERARD  
COOMA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, VALE ST, COOMA, NSW,

For 2 years Police at Lower Hunter have been investigating allegations that Catholic Priest POI 2 had sexually abused a number of young boys. Two victims have indicated their intention to pursue the matters at court whilst the third wishes only to give evidence.

During investigations Police became aware that Priest POI 3 was committing similar offences against young boys at the same time POI 2 in a neighbouring parish. POI 3 has been convicted of sexual assaults against more than 30 young boys which occurred in overlapping periods as those connected with POI 2. Many of the alleged victims of both priests were altar boys at the times of the offences.

POI 3 has been convicted & is serving a substantive gaol sentence. POI2 is awaiting trial on 22/11/04. Throughout the investigation of POI 2 members of the local clergy impeded police investigations. The local Bishop & other priests advised POI 2 of information not available to him at that time. Police felt many of the priests were reluctant to assist with inquiries & their memories failed in relation to significant events & conversations. During these inquiries Police were advised that a pornographic video of male to male (homosexual) sexual intercourse was allegedly found by POI 2 in the presbytery at

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## Narrative

Lochinvar. Police interviewed another priest who had occupied that presbytery earlier & he became upset & admitted to police he owned that video & being a close friend of POI 2 was given back the video which he had since destroyed.

Redacted at Commissioner's direction

In view of all the circumstances surrounding these persons & their offences, the similarity of victim's ages, location of crimes & time frames there is concern that there may be a paedophile network within the Catholic Church & other clergy members are assisting to conceal this. Police have notified the Ombudsman's office of concerns.

## Entities

657816910	FLETCHER, JAMES	PERSON
	RECTORY, 44 STATION ST, BRANXTON, NSW, 2335	
40034459	RYAN, VINCENT GERARD	PERSON
	COOMA CORRECTIONAL CENTRE, VALE ST, COOMA, NSW	
16012225		PERSON

JR 78

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## Information Report Summary

Referring Officer's Details:

Date Time Created : 02/09/2004 10:08  
Name of Officer : BURKE, JAMES  
Organisation Unit : CENTRAL HUNTER

Receiving Party's Details:

Attention Of : INTELLIGENCE OFFICER  
Organisation Unit : SCC SEX CRIMES SQUAD  
Dissemination Reason : SUSPECTED PAEDOPHILE PRIESTS COLLUDING

Reviewing Officer : JUDGE, MARIA ANNE  
Date Time Reviewed : 02/09/2004 10:44

\* \* \* \* \* End of List \* \* \* \* \*

Totals :

Reports : 1

Criteria :

Ref No : I 21949203

Submission Details :

User : CONDON, CHRISTOPHER PATRICK  
Section : OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
Branch : OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
Terminal : PP14T001

\* \* \* \* \* End of Report \* \* \* \* \*