

Name of Case: Christopher James Valle
Where: Melbourne Magistrates' Court, Court Room 1
When: Thursday, 23rd September, 2010
Magistrate: Lance Ivan Martin
Lawyer: Samantha Poulter
Date of Publication: Friday, 24th September, 2010
Tags: Rape, Assault, Great Grandmother, Ormond, Victoria

A 23-year-old man charged with the attempted rape of a 99-year-old Ormond woman appeared in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Christopher James Valle is accused of assaulting the elderly woman in her home, after knocking on her door on Saturday, September 4.

Valle, who was extradited from Queensland, is facing 11 charges, including two counts of attempted rape and single counts of indecent assault, intentionally causing serious injury, recklessly causing serious injury, aggravated burglary and theft.

Police said Valle forced his way inside the great grandmother's house, before assaulting her and attempting to rape her.

The woman was taken to hospital, where she remained for a week, and was treated for trauma.

It was alleged the attack lasted up to half an hour, but the motive remained unclear.

Detective Inspector Glenn Davies said the assault had profoundly affected the woman.

"She's had to remain in hospital for quite some time and for a woman of 99 to have suffered like this, late in life, [is] a terrible situation," he said.

At the hearing, Valle's lawyer, Samantha Poulter, said her client had a history of depression and was being assessed by a Mental Health Court Liaison Service officer.

Ms Poulter said she was concerned about Valle's safety and asked for his name and image to be suppressed.

"There is potential for Mr Valle to be in danger while in prison because of the nature of the charges," she said.

Ms Poulter said she was worried he might be killed because of the media attention the case had already attracted.

Magistrate Lance Martin dismissed the request, saying there was no evidence Valle was at risk and therefore no reason to withhold his details.

Valle, unshaven and wearing a grey t-shirt, did not speak during the hearing, staring at the floor throughout.

He was remanded in custody to re-appear in court for a committal mention on December 17.