

Rape foul-up exposed to the world

A world spotlight is to fall on failures in the WA justice system through a film that has won an American documentary award before being shown here.

It focuses on the fight for justice by the family of a Catholic Perth schoolboy wrongly accused of rape.

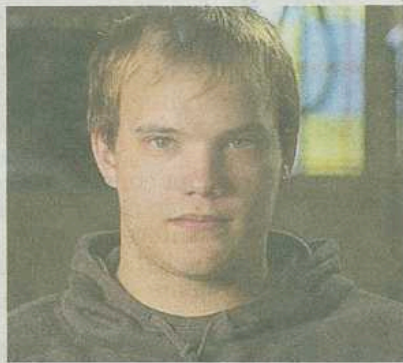
He spent a year in jail, with no compensation.

It cost the boy his education and his family their house and life savings.

The story, filmed by Mosman Park movie maker Michael Muntz, has been sold to 13 countries. It will air on SBS on June 9.

Mr Muntz won awards for his film on Andrew Mallard, wrongly convicted of the murder of Mosman Park jeweller Pamela Lawrence.

His latest, *Every Family's Nightmare*, is the true story of 15-



Patrick Waring

year-old Patrick Waring, acquitted by a jury in 2007.

The film follows his family as they fight for justice while Patrick is in jail waiting for his trial.

"This is the shocking inside story of a family's fight to free their 15-year-old son," says publicity for the film.



Lost house... Terry and Marie Waring

"A horrifying tale of lies, deception and the high cost of justice, *Every Family's Nightmare* exposes serious systemic, procedural and cultural flaws in Australia's criminal justice system.

"Patrick was jailed for a year while his family battled to prove

his innocence."

Mr Muntz's filming captures the family's reaction to the remarkable twists and turns in the case, including the moment they left the court after the jury's verdict.

Just days before the trial began, his camera captures a dramatic moment when the Warings' lawyers learn that the alleged victim has been re-interviewed by police and has changed her story.

But the expensive trial goes ahead anyway.

Patrick was charged before the police investigation was complete.

The film also raises serious questions about long delays and failures in forensic science.

Patrick's time in jail ruined his ambition for a higher education. He never went back to school.

He says: "The amount of damage that this whole ordeal has done to not just me but to my family, the fact that my parents are going to have to sell their house, the fact that my dad and my mum have given up so much just to be able to prove that someone was lying in the first place, this sort of thing can destroy people."

The family was forced to sell its house to pay for his defence.

A campaign to get the government to repay hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal expenses has been unsuccessful.

Mr Muntz took the project to Prospero Productions, who agreed to become co-producers.

Every Family's Nightmare won the Gold Remi Award in Houston recently in the category of Television and Cable Productions: TV Series.