

CHILD WISE

ECPAT in Australia

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Prison sentence for Aussie child sex tourist



An Australian child sex offender, on parole for child sex crimes, was given permission by his parole officer to work in the Philippines for a Christian children's charity. Raymond Colin Smith was on 3 years' probation for 24 charges of pornography and indecent dealing involving girls as young as four. At the time of his sentencing the court was told that Smith was actively seeking work with a children's charity and his psychiatrist insisted that Smith should never have contact with children. Despite knowing his high risk of re-offending, Smith was given permission by the Queensland prison authorities to go to the Philippines to work for the Mercy Ships - A

Ministry of Youth With A Mission.

Whilst in the Philippines, Raymond Colin Smith sexually molested two young girls. On the day of these offences Smith admitted the molestation to his boss who decided to return him to Australia for prosecution rather than the possibility of Smith's facing a death sentence if convicted in the Philippines. David Cowie, director of the Mercy Ships Youth Ministry at the time, said he made a tortured decision to place Smith on a flight to Australia the day after his admission: "Do I leave him here (Philippines) to face the death penalty or do I get him into the Australian legal system? Rightly or wrongly I sent him home".

On 7 June 2002 Raymond Colin Smith, 41, unemployed of New South Wales was sentenced in the Newcastle District Court to 3 years' jail for committing 3 sexual acts with two 6 year old girls in Olongapo, the Philippines. Judge Coolahan sentenced Smith to a concurrent 18 months' jail sentence on each of the two other offences.

The Judge directed that at the end of a 21 month non-parole period Smith be released on a three year bond with supervisory conditions. Later on the same day, Smith faced the Newcastle Local Court and pleaded guilty to possession of 4 CD-ROMs which contained about 2760 images of child pornography. Police found the items when they raided Smith's home. Magistrate Alan Railton sentenced Smith to a further concurrent 18 months' jail sentence.

Smith is the 12th Australian to be prosecuted under the child sex tourism provisions of the Commonwealth *Crimes Act* for child sex offences committed overseas on children under 16 years of age.

Courier Mail 24/5/02, 25/5/02 Newcastle Herald 8/7/02

CHILD WISE
welcomes new
Board members.
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CHILD WISE Welcomes New Directors

The new CHILD WISE Board was formed on Tuesday, 14th May 2002. The new Board brings together individuals with a wide range of talents, skills and experience to guide CHILD WISE into the future. The CHILD WISE Board also merges the past with the future in combining former ECPAT Australia directors with new members bringing fresh perspectives.

The CHILD WISE Board:

Wendy ROSE, Chair

Wendy Rose's experience in development and aid spans 25 years, including 15 years as the Executive Director of Save the Children Australia. Wendy has been Vice President of the Australian Council of Overseas Aid since 1991, and an elected NGO representative on the Committee for Development Cooperation (CDC) (1981-89, 1994-present). She is co-chair of the ACFOA Development Practices Advisory Committee and a founder and first President of the International Women's Development Agency.

Karen FLANAGAN

Karen Flanagan is the manager of the Sexual Abuse Counselling and Prevention Program (SACPP) and the Personal Safety a Protective Behaviours Program at the Children's Protection Society (CPS), Melbourne. Karen commenced her social work career in Social Services Belfast, Northern Ireland, before moving to Therapeutic Foster Care with Barnardos, Belfast. In Australia, Karen has worked at the Royal Children's Hospital and the Department of Human Services before joining CPS in 1993. Karen has provided consultancy advice and training in child abuse and protection issues in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the Asia Pacific region.

Francis GALBALLY

Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Senetas Corporation Limited.

Francis Galbally is a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria, the Supreme Court of New South Wales, and the High Court of Australia. His practice has been in the field of commercial law, and in the 1980s he acted for investors in failed financial institutions. Francis holds directorship positions with Senetas Corporation Limited, an ASX-listed IT services and investment company (Executive Chairman and CEO), Bali Tourism Limited (Chairman), Operation Rainbow Ltd – an NGO, and with subsidiary companies of Senetas and family private companies.

Nathan STIRLING AM

Chief Executive Officer, Open Family Australia
Nathan Stirling has been the CEO of Open Family since 1992. Prior to that he worked as a street-outreach worker and high school teacher. In 1993 Nathan was awarded a Churchill Fellowship for his work with street children, studying best practice methods in Europe and USA. Nathan was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1999 for service to disadvantaged youth through the development and management of programs and resources.

John William TOBIN

Faculty of Law, University of Melbourne
John Tobin has a wide range of professional and academic experience that demonstrates a focus and expertise in children's rights. John was admitted to Practice as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria and the High Court of Australia in 1994. He has worked as an advocate with the Youth Legal Service at Victoria Legal Aid, a legal officer with the Department of Justice and undertaken research for UNICEF in Florence. He is currently teaching courses on children's rights, international law and human rights at Melbourne University and writing a commentary to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Heather WALLACE

Lecturer and Course Co-ordinator Asia Pacific Community Development, Department of Social Inquiry and Community Studies, Victoria University.
Heather Wallace has 20 years' experience in the community development sector and has worked extensively in the Asia Pacific region throughout her career. Her experience reflects an interest and commitment to participation and representation. Heather has worked with refugee and migrant communities in Victoria, and in multicultural policy work. Heather has media experience, particularly as a radio documentary maker, focusing on aid and development programs. Heather now works at Victoria University in the community development field and trains NGO and government personnel as well as Australian based students.

Ann WIGGLESWORTH

Senior Program Manager, Save the Children Australia (SCA)

Ann Wigglesworth has over 20 years' experience working in overseas development with NGOs, with both field-based and Australia based experience. Since 2000, Ann has been responsible for SCA's overall development program nationally, and overseas (Asia/Pacific). Ann's extensive international development experience has involved her in delivering development programs in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific, and immediately prior to joining SCA, in East Timor with Caritas Australia.

THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN

Insert Stephanie Henry photo (on disk) by Stephanie Henry Development Asia/Pacific student.

I have the pleasure of doing a placement with CHILD WISE. CHILD WISE is a NGO member of the United Nations and therefore was invited to attend the Special Session on Children at the United Nations General Assembly in May 2002. The Special Session was an amazing experience where I was able to gain valuable new knowledge by attending the many plenaries and side events. I was able to try out my networking skills and best of all, meet ECPAT staff from around the world and other people working on commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) issues.

The conference was large with 4000 delegates from states and NGOs from around the world. In order to get the most out of the conference I chose the events that interested me the most, such as CSEC, HIV/AIDS and juvenile justice.

Beyond Yokohama: Combating CSEC

This was a very popular session that filled a main conference room. The panel presented the outcomes of the Second World Congress against CSEC and strategies for local, regional and global action. When the floor opened for discussion it was evident that CSEC had moved up the agenda in world affairs; there were ministers and government representatives present keen to share their country's experiences and actions.

Emerging Issues for Girls: HIV/AIDS & Tobacco

This session was friendly and had a feeling of intimacy but it focussed on education, and a few people from the floor raised abstinence. One question was "Why do girls engage in risky behaviour?" The response emphasised peer pressure and tv/advertising. Sadly, it did not address the issues of CSEC, such as economic pressures (unprotected sex for favours/money), the inaccessibility of STD barriers and of course the lack of choice for many children involved in CSEC. In Australia young people are offered 2 to 3 times more money to engage in sex work without barrier protection. The majority have had sex education from school and social services and are given free condoms, but economic necessity makes unprotected sex an option.

My views on child participation

Much of the media in the US and Australia seems to have emphasised child participation at the Special Session. Comments made on the joy of children running around the UN building astonished me, as I did not witness it. Yes, I did see a handful of young people networking and snapping photos with each other but overall I found the participation process disappointing. I felt a strong link between the children's forum and the general forum was lacking, and only minimal or token information filtered through. There were hundreds of children at the children's session, so where were their voices at the main session? I would have liked them to have had a more central role at the forum.

Many side events did not have child representation on the panels or even the floor. I did not have an opportunity to meet children, listen to their views or network with them. I realise the protection of children was a valid issue, along with the demands on chaperones, but I hope the future allows for more interaction and less of a 'them and us' divide. Lastly on this issue, I would like to add that the children I did see and hear on plenaries were wonderfully courageous to share their stories with the conference floor.

My last word

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to attend the Special Session. I learned a great deal about CSEC and the CRC. As with any topic there were diverse opinions, and the Special Session gave me an opportunity to listen to those views, allowing me to analyse and form my own opinions and gain confidence in the campaign against CSEC. I believe the Special Session on Children is a valuable tool to remind governments of their commitment to the children of this world. I hope they have taken their commitment home and have begun to implement changes at all levels for the Rights of the Child locally, regionally and globally.

A World Fit for Children - the Outcome Document

The official text of the outcome document approved at the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children, 10 May 2002. The document is available in several languages, including English.

English: www.crin.org/docs/resources/publications/UNICEF/A-S27-19-Rev1E-annex.pdf
Website: www.unicef.org



Chapter closes on the sad story of a missing teenage prostitute...

by Les Kennedy

Aaron James Light ran away from his inner Sydney home when he was 15. It is believed that Aaron was sexually abused by an older man he met when he was 10. To support himself on the streets Aaron became a teenage prostitute working on the infamous Wall at Darlinghurst. But in 1997, aged 17, he disappeared without trace after turning key witness to a special police task force investigating paedophile rings in Sydney. The task force also went on to hunt down and extradite infamous pederast Robert Dolly Dunn from South America. For seven years, Aaron's disappearance remained a mystery. Then in March 2002, workmen unearthed a skeleton which has now been confirmed as Aaron Light.

Detectives have reopened old case files from the now defunct Task Force Shad which between 1995 and 1997 charged and prosecuted 30 alleged paedophiles operating in several child porn and sex networks in Sydney. Detectives said that Aaron's testimony was crucial to the prosecution brief being prepared against a group of alleged paedophiles. As a result of Aaron's disappearance charges were dropped against a number of these men. It is understood that Aaron's allegations related to a paedophile ring dubbed "Circle of Friends". The group is also known to operate in Britain where juveniles preyed upon have also been murdered.

Sydney Morning Herald 16/4/02

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Study finds boys hide sexual abuse

A new study from the University of South Australia has found that boys generally keep silent about sexual abuse and use a variety of techniques to mask the effects of the abuse. Researcher Cate Hudson said that one in six boys would be abused sexually before their 16th birthday but it was believed that less than 10% of abused boys would report the abuse. Male sexual abuse victims rarely told anyone at the time of the abuse and when they did, it was usually many years later and expressed to a female.

The study found that abused boys commonly withdrew from their usual activities, often using drugs and alcohol to disguise their hurt. Others become more aggressive, belligerent and sullen in order to screen themselves from any suggestion that they were weak, effeminate or homosexual. By far, anger was the most expressed emotion. Most boys did not disclose the abuse.

Western Australian 4/5/02

Notorious paedophile may return to Oz from Thai prison

Australian child sex offender Bradley Pendragon may return to Australia from Thailand to complete his sentence.

Pendragon was the first foreigner convicted of child sex offences in Thailand after admitting to having sex with girls aged 9, 11 and 13 while on holiday in the early 1990s. Pendragon has indicated that he will apply for transfer to New South Wales from a Bangkok Prison that could be possible under the Thai-Australian prisoner exchange treaty which will come into force in June 2002. Pendragon has served 9 years of a 24 year sentence.

Boys in detention fear sexual assault

An inquiry investigating the adequacy and appropriateness of Australia's treatment of child asylum seekers has heard that unaccompanied Afghan boys in the Woomera Detention Centre live in fear of sexual assault by adult males detainees.

According to a former employee, management had refused to place the boys into protective isolation and did not acknowledge the boys fear. A former health care worker told the Human Rights Commission who is holding the inquiry that she believed that in many cases sexual abuse had gone unreported in the detention centre owing to a fear of management





Vietnam

Police in Ho Chi Minh City have detained two women on suspicion of trafficking Vietnamese virgins to Cambodia brothels for less than US\$350 each. The two women were arrested in a guest house in the bleak industrial suburb of Binh Chanh along with three girls they are accused of pimping.

Police allege that since 2001 the pair had preyed on scores of young peasant girls who had moved to Vietnam's biggest city in search of work in its myriad sweatshops and karaoke bars. After the girls lost their virginity to big paying clients in Phnom Penh and other cities, a butterfly was tattooed onto their stomachs to mark their lower value.

Greece

Greece is set to introduce new tough anti-trafficking laws after it has been revealed that girls as young 12 are amongst the 40,000 females trafficked in prostitution in Greece. It is alleged that Greece has become a centre of trafficking in Europe as it links the East to the West. It is believed that most victims come from the former Soviet Union, the Balkans and increasingly, Africa. Some are kidnapped and others are lured by promises of marriage. The trade has spread as the Greek underworld has been infiltrated by the Eastern European mafia.

The Philippines

A Catholic Bishop has testified in defence of convicted Australian paedophile Victor Fitzgerald, who is appealing against his conviction for abusing girls in the Philippines in 1995. The testimony of the Bishop is based on a sworn affidavit by 23 priests which states that the girls were unduly influenced to testify against Fitzgerald. An Australian priest working in the Philippines has paid Fitzgerald's bail bond which has released him from jail while the appeal is proceeding.

Cambodia

Vietnam will deport Glitter if found

Vietnam has said that it had no evidence British 1970s pop icon Gary Glitter had entered the country but he would be deported if found, given his past conviction



for child pornography offences. Authorities have checked carefully and have not detected that this character entered Vietnam," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Phan Thuy Thanh said in response to a report from police in Cambodia that Glitter had left for Vietnam.

If Glitter was found, he would be deported.

Glitter, 57, whose real name is Paul Francis Gadd, was sentenced in 1999 to 4 months in a British prison for downloading child pornography from the Internet.

He caused a storm of controversy and sparked a Cambodian police investigation after it was discovered he had set up residence in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh earlier this year.

In early June police in Phnom Penh said they understood Glitter had left for Vietnam and had earlier shown journalists a Vietnamese visa in his passport.

Cambodian police had initially said they would deport Glitter once documents on his previous conviction were provided by British police. They later said Glitter had committed no crimes in Cambodia and would be permitted to stay.

Reuters 06/06/02

International data bank to combat child pornography

An international databank to combat child pornography will be running by next year. The Canadian Minister of Justice told Ministers and officials from the Group of Eight top economic nations that the databank would help police find victims and identify and capture suspects.



Child Sexual Exploitation

US Court quashes Child Porn Law

The United States Supreme Court has recently struck down a federal law which banned virtual child pornography under the guise of being unconstitutional and against free speech. The following is an extract of the response issued by ECPAT:

ECPAT International and ECPAT-USA expressed disappointment with the US Supreme Court decision of 16 April 2002 striking down provisions of the Child Pornography Prevention Act (CPPA) of 1996 as unconstitutional.

ECPAT International supported the CPPA recognizing that virtual and simulated child pornography is used as a tool by paedophiles to solicit child victims, and that its very existence whets the appetite of child sex offenders and encourages them to abuse children.

ECPAT International and ECPAT-USA regret that the majority of the Supreme Court could not see there is a direct link between the publication of virtual pornographic images of children and the continuing sexual exploitation and abuse of the world's children.

ECPAT International and ECPAT-USA believe that a society that allows pornographic images of children to be published and commercially obtained, whether the children are real or not, is a society that fails to safeguard the rights of its children.

ECPAT International and ECPAT-USA believe that the majority judgement of the Supreme Court failed to appreciate the potential for traffickers of child pornography to avoid prosecution by using virtual images that are indistinguishable from real children.



The CPPA was a progressive piece of legislation that courageously tackled the frontier issues of virtual & simulated child pornography.

It is particularly disappointing that the Supreme Court has struck down this legislation only three months after the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography entered into force. The protocol, to which the US is a signatory, specifically calls for the criminalisation of such images.

We are pleased to note that the provisions CPPA that banned morphed images of real children remain in effect. We hope that the U.S. government will move quickly to introduce legislation that will stand up to constitutional scrutiny as far as "virtual" child pornography is concerned.

UK and Irish police raid homes

◆ Operation Magenta (UK)

The biggest ever operation against paedophiles who use the Internet was carried out recently when police simultaneously raided 75 homes across the country. Operation Magneta was the result of a six month investigation focussing on those using chat rooms to advertise and trade in child abuse images. Police believe that many of those involved in swapping images also might have been abusing children. Detectives used specialist equipment to trace computers being used by people entering chat rooms anonymously. More arrests are expected to follow.

◆ Operation Amethyst (Eire)

The Irish Police (Gardai) recently mounted Ireland's big crackdown against child pornography. Five hundred police raided more 100 homes across the country. Operation Amethysts was the result of months of planning and monitoring child pornography sites. In the nationwide raids, police seized 140 computers and components in a nationwide series of raids on the homes and business premises of suspect child pornographers. No arrests been made at this stage.

and the Internet

Queenslander on trial again for Internet crimes

A Brisbane dentist caught in a major Internet paedophile sting has been charged for a second time after an initial case against him was thrown out by a magistrate.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has launched a fresh indictment against Trevor David Cullen in what is being seen as a significant test case for undercover police operations. Cullen was one of two people arrested in December 2000 in an operation run by the Queensland Crime Commission.

The operation involved a QCC investigator who posed as a 12 year old girl (Susie12), whom Cullen allegedly met in an online chat room. He exchanged sexually explicit material and emails and arranged to meet the girl.

Police from Taskforce Argus arrested Cullen at a Brisbane shopping centre where he had arranged to meet Susie. Cullen was charged with attempting to procure a child to commit an indecent act. When Cullen faced the committal hearing last year, the Magistrate dismissed the case as the girl did not exist and there was "no child in law". Now the DPP has taken out a new indictment against Cullen which will be tested in the Brisbane District Court and could open up the way for a number of other prosecution against Internet paedophiles.

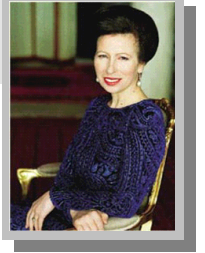
The Courier Mail 17/5/02

Crackdown on child sex tour organisers

Travel agents organising child sex tours could face 20 years in jail under laws proposed by the WA Government. Attorney General Jim McGinty said the proposed laws would complement federal laws aimed at paedophiles who participate in child sex tours. Federal laws make it an offence for an Australian to have sex with a child under 16 in another country or promote and benefit from these activities. The changes were being planned for the Travel Agents Act and the Criminal Code to ensure that anyone knowingly organising a sex tour for child sex offenders would be severely punished.

Child Wise Tourism

Princess Anne supports work to prevent child sex tourism



In April 2002 HRH Princess Anne visited the Cambodian Ministry of Tourism (MoT) to observe training held by the MoT Child Safe Tourism team. The MoT was the only Ministry that the Princess visited during her brief stay in Cambodia and HRH's visit was of great support for the MoT's innovative work to prevent child sex tourism.

In 2000, Child Wise Tourism (CWT) conducted a series of consultations and workshops in partnership with the MoT and World Vision Cambodia to raise awareness and develop strategies to combat child sex tourism. MoT training staff have also participated in CWT regional workshops and other related conferences. The MoT has since developed a Child Safe Tourism Commission and a Child Safe Tourism program operating from the offices of the MoT. With funding support from the British Embassy in Phnom Penh and local NGO support from World Vision Cambodia, the Child Safe Tourism program is providing training to local MoT staff, tour guides and other tourism professionals in Phnom Penh, Sihanoukville and Siem Reap. This is an excellent example of CWT in practice - a creative collaboration between local NGOs, government authorities and the private sector. The Cambodian Child Safe Tourism program hopes to develop leaflets, stickers and posters to educate travellers about the laws and penalties for abusing children.

Recently, Child Wise Tourism Program Manager Chris Beddoe visited the MoT Child Safe Tourism team to identify what support CWT can provide to the Child Safe program. The MoT has also agreed to host the first regional Child Wise Tourism 'Think Tank' meeting in Siem Reap, site of the famous temples of Angkor. The regional meeting to be held at the end of August will bring together government tourism authorities from across Asia to share experiences and discuss policy and program options on the prevention of child sex tourism.

Child Wise Tourism congratulates the Cambodian Ministry of Tourism for its continued commitment to protecting children.

Mission Statement

CHILD WISE is committed to preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation everywhere.

CHILD WISE represents ECPAT in Australia and is part of a global network of organisations and individuals working together for the elimination of child prostitution, child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes. It seeks to encourage the world community to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free and secure from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

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