

Information collected during assessment

Offence history

- 42-year-old man serving second sentence of imprisonment for sexual offences against female children (aged 8 – 11 years).
- Described offending in a romanticised fashion, stating he was in “relationships” with the victims who were all known to him. Paul was loosely acquainted to the children’s parents (earlier offending was against boss’s children, most recent offending was against neighbour’s children)
- In every instance, Paul offended in the context of babysitting. He was a trusted babysitter, often spending weekends at the victims’ homes. He also took the victims away camping to remote regions during school holidays. He stated he enjoyed their company and teaching them about native birds and plants, and bush survival skills.
- Paul developed the children’s trust and offending increased in intrusiveness over time. Initial offences came to light when one of the victims disclosed the abuse to a teacher.
- Following first sentence of imprisonment Paul moved to a small town where he was anonymous, with the goal of becoming self-sufficient. He developed a large vegetable garden and began selling some of his produce to the community. He offered his neighbour’s children weekend work and “developed relationships” with them through that, with his offending following a similar trajectory to his earlier offending. His offending came to light when the children disclosed abuse to their parents.
- Paul stated adamantly that he never intended to hurt the victims and that he cared for them deeply. He stated that he prefers the company of children because they don’t hurt him or “let him down” like adults “always do.”
- Paul has no history of general or violent offending.

Background info

- Paul is the youngest of four children and described himself as the “dumb one” of the family. He stated that he was as a “mistake,” that his mother didn’t want him and that she was only nice to him when he did things for her.
- Paul had a good relationship with his father; however, his father worked long hours and wasn’t at home much. His parents separated when he was 10-years-old, after which time he lived with his father and one brother. Around this time he was sexually abused by an older female (family friend), and reported that at the time, there were positive aspects to this experience. She gave him attention that no one else did. Paul believed she genuinely cared for him.
- Paul was bullied at primary school by his brothers and peers; he described himself as a loner with few close friends. He received remedial reading classes. In his early teens Paul began smoking marijuana in an attempt to fit in with his peers and to gain his father’s attention. He left school with no qualifications.
- Paul has never been married and his adult relationships appear rather superficial.
- He completed university entrance qualifications through correspondence schooling as an adult, then a Bachelor of Science degree (major = environmental science). He worked for the Dept of Conservation setting up rodent traps in remote native bush areas prior to his earlier offending.

Current presentation

- Intake assessment showed elevated scores on measures of social anxiety and mild depression – consistent with his presentation (sits by himself in the dining room, avoids recreation room, etc).
- Paul currently works in the prison vegetable garden. Staff report that he is a hard worker but appears withdrawn around co-workers.