



## **AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH**

MEDIA RELEASE

September 18, 2021

### **AUSTRALIAN MAN JAILED FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING CHILDREN IN CAMBODIA**

An Australian man who sexually abused several young girls in Cambodia and kept a collection of child abuse material has been sentenced to nine years and six months' imprisonment by the South Australian Adelaide District Court on Friday, 17 September 2021.

The 47-year-old pleaded guilty last year (2020) to 12 offences after an extensive investigation by the South Australia Joint Anti Child Exploitation Team (SA JACET). Officers from SA JACET, which comprises Australian Federal Police (AFP) and South Australia Police, arrested the man in May 2019.

SA JACET and AFP liaison officers worked closely with partners in Cambodia to gather evidence for a prosecution and mount a strong case against the offender. AFP officers based in Cambodia received significant assistance from the Cambodian National Police (CNP) and other non-government organisations (NGO) to identify victims, provide welfare support, and legal representation.

NGOs included APLE Cambodia, which works to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation, and the Legal Impact Hub led by the Armin Law and Remedy Project in Cambodia. The Hub is a coalition of lawyers and NGOs working systematically to combat human trafficking in Cambodia.

Ambassador Pablo Kang said "I would like to acknowledge the significant cooperation between Australian and Cambodian law enforcement, as well as NGOs, to secure this outcome." He added that "the tireless efforts of all law enforcement officials involved, sends a strong message that Australia does not accept any form of child abuse. Law enforcement won't stop until offenders are brought to justice to protect children."

Members of the public who have any information about people involved in child abuse and exploitation are urged to contact CNP Anti-Human Trafficking Juvenile Protection Department via the hotline number 1288.

If you or someone you know are impacted by child sexual abuse and online exploitation there are support services available throughout Cambodia accessible through [https://aplecambodia.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/APLE\\_Referral-Directory\\_Final\\_for-Web.pdf](https://aplecambodia.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/APLE_Referral-Directory_Final_for-Web.pdf)

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