

Media Release



28 October 2005

Australian arrested for international child sex tourism offences

The AFP yesterday executed a search warrant in Wollongong, resulting in the arrest of a 73 year old Coniston man for alleged child sex tourism offences in the Philippines.

Police alleged the man who had lived in the Philippines for five years, commenced relations with 15 year old girl in 2001, and also later hired a 14 year old female as a housemaid, and allegedly sexually assaulted her in February this year before returning to Australia in August.

The Australian investigation was launched after a complaint from the Philippines was received by the Australian charity Child Wise, in May.

Child Wise, a member of ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) International, passed the complaint to the AFP, who commenced investigations in association with Philippines law enforcement agencies.

Federal Agents travelled to the Philippines in early October to interview and obtain statements from people in connection with the case.

Based on the information gathered from the Philippines, a search warrant was executed on the Coniston man's residence yesterday morning, where the 73 year old was arrested.

He was transported to Sydney to be interviewed by police and was formally charged with two offences under the provisions of section 50BA of the Crimes Act 1914 – having sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 16, while outside Australia, namely the Philippines.

The man was remanded in custody overnight and appeared in Sydney's Central Local Court this morning. He was released on conditional bail to reappear on 13 December 2005.

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