

NSW first pay-for-view child sex case

EXCLUSIVE

EMMA PARTRIDGE & ANTHONY DE CEGEJE

POLICE have made a major dent in the fight against an emerging type of child abuse with a NSW man becoming the first in the state to plead guilty to "pay-for-view" cyber sex trafficking.

The Daily Telegraph can reveal a rapid growth in the vile crime — in which people commission the sickening abuse of children in Third World countries and pay to watch it live on their computers. It often involves the torture and sexual assault of kids.

The man is expected to face the NSW District Court today after pleading guilty to 20 counts of causing a child under the age of 16 to have sex outside Australia.

He also faces one count of producing, disseminating or possessing child abuse material.

The offender was arrested in 2015 for watching a live stream of child sex abuse in the Philippines.

The NSW police sex crimes boss, Superintendent Linda Howlett, recently told a human trafficking inquiry she believed the accused would be the first person to be charged for "pay-for-view".

"Basically, they will dictate to a particular offender, who might have children in the house, what activities they would like to perform on the children of a sexual nature, whether it is the children are being tortured, beaten, sexually assaulted," Supt Howlett said.

"So the offender in NSW will dictate to the offender that is actually carrying out the acts in the other country."

In a recent submission to the inquiry, International Justice Mission Australia said the industry was expanding in Third-World countries partly because of the demand from NSW.

"Cybersex trafficking is a rapidly growing crime that is being fuelled in part by an expanding market in NSW," the submission said.

Supt Howlett said it was expected it would be an expanding industry — particularly in the Philippines.



Supt Howlett.

Talkback king trims down for his royal radio return

SKIN & JONES



A trimmer Alan Jones after his illness. Picture: Julian Andrews

EXCLUSIVE

MATTHEW BERNIS
EDITOR-AT-LARGE



he said pointing from the shoulders up. "I am not too flash from here down. I have had four major surgeries since November. Obviously I don't want anyone imagining I'm going to run the Boston marathon."

AFTER four operations in as many months, radio talkback king Alan Jones is back on air today — a shadow of his former self (but in a good way).

In the last year the 2GB breakfast show stalwart has put himself on a strict diet and cut his weight by 30kg to just 85kg and is "still going south" after being diagnosed as insulin resistant — the immediate health condition that can precede the onset of diabetes — one year ago. He was also forced to go under the knife for a crippling back condition, including a collapsed disc.

"I have only had two glasses of champagne since March," said Jones, who has cut out grog and put himself on a strictly disciplined diet.

"This (diabetes) is the biggest crisis in Australia today. I wasn't over the line but if you get over it you become diabetic and this is serious stuff — this is about amputations, going blind and all that business."

It has concentrated his mind on his health. At the age of 75 he has — picture this — taken up the low-impact stretching regimen of pilates.

"I have never been anywhere near it and I found it very, very impressive," he said of his time with "Angela and Matt" at their studio in Mittagong in NSW's Southern Highlands.

He was ebullient and excited about getting back on air when he spoke to The Daily Telegraph at his Circular Quay apartment, but Jones is the first to admit that he is a long way from recovered.

"I am all right from here up."

But before the major spinal surgeries the veteran broadcaster's back issues had worsened to the point where he was virtually unable to move his arms.

Now the problem is the muscle wastage from lying in bed for seven weeks straight, specifically his left quad.

"I never thought I would be in this predicament because I have been an athlete all my life and been fit and all the rest of it and then, bang — all this bloody nonsense," he said.

"I have got news for you. I am not fully recovered. But I am recovered enough to sit in front of a microphone," Jones said in a good news bulletin for network colleague Ray Hadley, who has been doubling up and covering his shift.

When Jones finishes his show at 2GB's studios today he will be heading off to rehab and then pilates.

"I am not kidding myself. I will be tired. I mean, talking for four hours and everything and all that energy is exhausting."

Politicians from the Prime Minister down had also better be aware that he is back because they are all in his sights.

"I am going right after them on Monday morning," he said. First up will be securing a national electricity supply.

"Why are we continuing to subsidise wind turbines?" he asked. "No one is going to invest in coal-fired power — you cannot compete because the other is being subsidised."

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A heavier Jones just a year ago. Picture: Dale Webster

A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN

THE long-awaited trailer for the newest mega-budget superhero movie Justice League has finally been released.

The teaser has already got critics divided, with complaints about corny jokes and too many computer-generated graphics.

The DC Extended Universe movie, which is slated for release on November 17, will pair Ben Affleck and Gal Gadot as Batman and Wonder Woman, who come together to recruit a team of superheroes that includes superheroes Cyborg, Aquaman and The Flash.



Gal Gadot.

Trial go-ahead for new Alzheimer's drug

SUE DUNLEVY

A NEW drug to beat Australia's second-biggest killer, Alzheimer's disease, will be tested on Australian patients within months.

The medicine Xanamen blocks the stress hormone cortisol to improve mental

function and is being billed as the world's next blockbuster drug after it improved the mental function of mice.

Australian company Actinogen Medical will begin trials of the new drug in the Central Coast, Sydney and Melbourne.

More than 170 patients with mild dementia in Aus-

tralia, the UK and the United States will join the trial.

University of Newcastle's Professor Jonathan Sturm, whose patients will take part, says there is great need for an effective Alzheimer's treatment, but while this new pill is promising "it's still an early stage study".

"It's very important to get

new treatments. The current treatments boost neurotransmitters so they treat the symptoms but they don't treat the underlying disease," he said.

A CSIRO study of 1000 Australians that began in 2006 found a link between elevated cortisol and the development of Alzheimer's.