

CATEGORY: Pattern of offending	Case Study # 17
TITLE: Educator misconduct	DATE: 4-11-2018
SUB-TITLE: suspicion of abuse, grooming, vulnerable groups targeted	
LOCATION: Australia	
<p>The teacher's pattern of offending with each of the five victims was similar. All of the boys were pupils in one of YJ's classes between 1999 and 2009. Three were all in year 5 and nine or 10 years old at the time of the abuse. Two were in year 4 and about eight years old when the abuse commenced.</p> <p>Four of the victims were new to the school when they commenced in the offending teacher's class. As new students, they were vulnerable, as they had not yet been able to form friendships with other students and the offending teacher was able to easily isolate and manipulate them. He singled out each complainant at the start of the school year and gave them gifts and additional attention, both in the classroom and while taking part in extracurricular activities.</p> <p>The victims were bullied by other students because they were perceived as being 'teacher's pets' due to the extra attention that the offending teacher gave them. This increased their social isolation and vulnerability. The offending teacher also cultivated friendships with the victims' mothers, which made it more difficult for the victims to disclose their abuse.</p> <p>As the school year continued, the offending teacher used a tactile manner to progress from a form of touching the victims on the outside of their clothing to putting his hand inside their clothing.</p> <p>The majority of offenses took place in the offending teacher's classroom. The offending teacher created the impression to those around him, including other teachers, of being open and trustworthy by keeping his classroom door open as much as possible and by touching as many boys as possible in a non-indecent way.</p> <p>Suspicion of favoritism and inappropriate conduct was brought forward by staff on at least three occasions separated by years and disciplinary letters were put into the teacher's file. No follow up plan or changes to supervision were put in place at the time of the letters. The offending teacher was left to modify his own behavior. Additional history was not connected to reports. No effort was made to identify extent of behavior or determine nature of offending or possible victims.</p> <p>Ten years after first disciplinary letter, an adult victim came forward through his parents and additional victims were identified.</p>	
<p>QUESTIONS-COMMENTS-CAVEATS: See the 30 Guiding Questions</p>	