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Thai child-sex tour teacher guilty

Monday 24 February 2003, 20:05PM

A 71-year-old former Melbourne school teacher has been told to expect a long jail term for his sexual deviance in organising child-sex tours to Thailand.

Jonathon Kaye has been convicted after the first trial of its kind in Australia, for offering to provide a 70-year-old Perth man with young girls and boys for sex in a Thai apartment.

A jury of eight men and four women deliberated for less than three hours before finding Kaye guilty of a crime for which he was arrested in January 2001 after police tapped 1,323 phone calls made to and from his retirement home.

His four-day West Australian District Court trial was told Kaye ran a travel business from his home, and had canvassed callers' possible interest in sex tours to Thailand.

Police pounced after Kaye told 70-year-old Graham Adair he could provide boys and girls of any age.

Mr Adair denied in his evidence that he was interested in young boys or child pornography.

The jury was not told Kaye had been arrested twice in Thailand, in 1997 and 1999, on child-sex charges.

He had been caught in raids linked to a British school teacher and two Dutch men.

The charges did not go to trial there, but Kaye was eventually deported to Australia.

On his return, he changed his name by deed poll from John Joseph Kosky, after having problems with the Jewish community.

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