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# 'You robbed me of my innocence' victim tells rapist Edward Anand

Hamish McNeilly · 18:04, May 04 2016



HAMISH MCNEILLY/STUFF

Edward Anand, 67, was sentenced to 13 years' jail by Judge Kevin Phillips in the Dunedin District Court on Wednesday.

A victim of former social worker Edward Anand, who raped vulnerable girls in his care, hopes that he "rots" in jail.

Anand, 67, was sentenced to 13 years' jail by Judge Kevin Phillips in the Dunedin District Court on Wednesday.

Outside of court, one of Anand's victims said: "I am relieved . . . but he showed no remorse in the dock so I hope he rots in there [jail]."

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Six of Anand's victims read harrowing accounts of his offending, but "your attitude was dismissive" towards them Judge Phillips said.

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"Their childhood was stolen, their ability to trust was destroyed."

Anand denied molesting 10 girls at the former Elliot St Girls' Home between 1980 and 1986, but a jury found him guilty on five charges of rape and seven of indecent assault.

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The victims were aged 10-15 and "groomed" by Anand who offered them cigarettes and cannabis.

He was found not guilty on three charges of rape and one of indecent assault, with the jury unable to reach a unanimous verdict on a rape allegation made by one of the complainants.

Some of the girls tried to complain, but were ignored, Judge Phillips said.

"The abuse of trust is so high as to be bewildering."

### The victims

Survivor advocate Louise Nicholas was a support person for the first victim, who was 14 years old when she was abused by Anand.

"Edward Anand there is nothing you can do to compensate the damaging effect you have had on my life.

"You robbed me of my innocence."

She had felt out of place at the boarding school, and "your actions gave me the mindset that this was the norm".

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"I would dearly like to tell you that you have ruined my love but I am unable to do so, you took the opportunity away from me to know what life should be like."

A woman who was raped by Anand said she had little self-worth and had chosen partners who abused her.

"I had no voice or ability to say no."

She said she could not be a functioning member of society and had battled addictions brought on by her post traumatic stress disorder.

"I feel like I have lived half a life in the shadows."

Another rape victim was groomed from "day one".

Anand would put his arm around her, give her cigarettes, brush past her breasts and would kiss her.

Anand was a "sexual predator", who turned the secure unit into own "sexual chamber".

"You were a paedophile preying on innocent children."

Anand's actions could never be undone, she said.

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Crown prosecutor Mary-Jane Thomas said Anand had his victims "completely in his control".

"These girls couldn't get away, and when they tried to get away they got dragged back to a cell . . . where this man attacked them again."

"This is a manipulative and educated predator who picked on society's most vulnerable."

## Ministry responds

Ministry of Social Development Programme Manager Claims Resolution Elisabeth Brunt said Anand had "been brought to account for his predatory behaviour".

She said staff complaints about Anand's behaviour were brought to the attention of Department of Social Welfare management in Dunedin in February 1986.

The sexual abuse allegations were referred to Police at the time.

After the allegations were raised with Anand, he chose to resign.

"Records from the time show that the allegations about Mr Anand were handled as they should have been at the time," she said.

Two claims relating to Anand had ben resolved and the Ministry of Social Development had apologised to those two claimants and made a financial payment.

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Brunt also said the ministry was working with a number of other women to resolve their claims against Anand and she encouraged any of his victims who have not yet been heard to contact the ministry or the Police.

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