

Victims tell of lives destroyed by abuse

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THREE middle-aged men who were child sex abuse victims of the same predator have told a judge of the devastating impact the abuse had on their lives.

"I have not been able to give anyone a cuddle for 25 years," said one victim at the sentencing hearing of Andrew Dean **McIntosh** in the NSW District Court yesterday.

"I can only hug my own mum for about 10 seconds before I become uncomfortable and have to push her away."

A second man said his whole life "has been a secret. I have lost relationships and felt shame all my life."

The third man referred to his depression, anxiety, sleeplessness, nightmares, problems socialising and extreme and violent mood swings.

McIntosh "destroyed my adolescent years and set me up for a life of continued self-torment and fear", the man said.

As the statements were read, **McIntosh**, 56, sat in the dock with his eyes lowered, apparently reading documents.

In May, he was found guilty of 18 charges against the three boys, including buggery and indecent assault between 1979 and 1984.

The jury was told he whipped one boy with a kettle cord, lavished gifts on victims and befriended the families of boys and teenagers.

McIntosh also faces sentencing after being found guilty at an earlier trial of sex offences in the early 1990s against a student at Barker College, Hornsby.

The victim, Sascha Chandler - who has given permission for his name to be used - gave "tendency evidence" at the latest trial, saying **McIntosh**, the school's adult cadet officer, abused him on school camps and controlled every element of his life.

In 1988, **McIntosh** was jailed for at least two years on five counts of indecency against another victim.

The sentencing hearing will continue today before Judge Michael Finnane.