Preventing youth sexual violence and abuse: Problems and solutions in the Australian context

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Bio:
Stephen Smallbone is a psychologist and Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Director of Griffith Youth Forensic Service, and an Australian Research Council ‘Future’ Fellow. His research is concerned with understanding and preventing sexual violence and abuse. His recent publications include the books Situational Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (Wortley & Smallbone, 2006) and Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: Evidence, Policy and Practice (Smallbone, Marshall, & Wortley, 2008).

Abstract:
Young people under 18 years of age are responsible for a significant proportion of officially recorded sexual offences worldwide, including in Australia. In this presentation I describe an ecological, field-based clinical forensic practice model developed in Queensland, and show how engagement with youth sexual offenders within their natural social ecologies has led to the discovery of specific endemic problems that would normally remain hidden or beyond the reach of conventional clinical services. Drawing on public health and crime prevention concepts and methods, I present a comprehensive framework for organising prevention strategies and describe how this framework has guided our approach to developing place-based prevention strategies at two sites: a remote Aboriginal community, and a suburban precinct in a regional city.