

Giving kids a fighting a chance

Following the disappearance of 13-year-old Siriyakorn 'Bung' Siriboon on 2 June and a spate of other attempted child abductions in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, self-defence school Modern Defensive Tactics Australia is offering free 'stranger danger' seminars at schools and clubs around Melbourne.

MDTA instructor Karl Thornton will deliver talks about the realities of paedophile activity and explain effective tactical and physical strategies to keep kids safe.

"An abduction can be a situation where the attacker may be subtle, approachable and deliver a very friendly

persona, allowing the child to place themselves in a very vulnerable position for abduction. However, there is also the situation where the abduction can be a very quick, brutal and violent act," said Thornton. "These days technology is helping the attacker in more ways than just via the usual social networks like Facebook. Would-be attackers can use Google maps, for example, to complete full surveillance of an area... They can set in place a well organised plan even before they have selected a victim, or even left their home.

"It is time to let parents and children know the reality and

what is available to give them a fighting chance."

Thornton is a licensed bodyguard and professional in close personal protection who has worked with child-protection organisation The Grey Man in their fight against sex-trafficking syndicates in South East Asia.

MDTA also run a more in-depth four-week Stranger Danger Physical Response program for children. For more information, visit the MDTA website at www.mdtacom.au



Karl Thornton