

08 NEWS

Deviant escapes jail term

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A SEXUAL deviant who acted as a prospective buyer of a Melbourne cafe and preyed on the owner after she told him the premises had no CCTV cameras has avoided conviction.

A court heard Bassem Danil cornered his victim in the back room of the cafe, grabbing her and kissing her neck. Mr Danil, 49, then put his hand up her top and fondled her breast.

The victim, a Vietnamese woman in her 40s, broke free and returned to the counter to serve customers but once they left, Mr Danil approached again. He put his hands down the back of her pants and said, "Oh, you're a sexy girl".

Mr Danil, a Lebanese national on a permanent partner visa, pleaded guilty to two charges of sexual assault over the September 10, 2015, attack.

Mr Danil's lawyer, George Balot, told Ringwood Magistrates' Court he was "remorseful and ashamed".

Mr Balot said his client had since been seeing a psychologist.

Magistrate Jan Maclean sentenced Mr Danil to a 12-month Community Corrections Order requiring him to do 50 hours of unpaid work and undergo more treatment.