

## PAUL LITHERLAND

### OWNER : SURF ONLINE SAFE

**P** Paul was a Western Australia Police Officer for 21 years from 1993 to 2014, working in a diverse range of fields during a decorated career. During that time, Paul received 4 commendations from the Commissioner of Police and was nominated for Police Officer of the Year on 2 separate occasions, being a finalist for one of those nominations. In 2007, Paul also received a Pride of Australia Medal for his volunteer work and fundraising efforts surrounding the death of Sofia Rodriguez Urrutia-Shu, who was murdered by Dante Arthurs in 2006. This award remaining one of Paul's most proudest achievements.

For over 25 years Paul has dedicated himself to his community in numerous roles, these include as a volunteer lecturer for Ride Safe WA, as well as a mentor for junior sports people. Over the past 17 years in particular, Paul has been actively involved in the Western Australian Football League as a coach and is currently a senior coach for the South Fremantle Football Club. During his time as a lecturer at the WA Police Academy and with Ride Safe WA, Paul gained a passion for educating and had found something he truly loved doing. It was at this time his dream of being an educator was first kindled.

Over the last 5 years of his policing career Paul worked with the Technology Crime Investigation Unit, an area though having only a small number of investigators, had a massive reputation as one of the leading technology crime divisions in the world. Paul had a keen interest in computers which had evolved through his qualifications as a graphic designer and web designer. As a semi-professional photographer for almost 15 years, Paul also had a precise understanding of the make up of digital imagery and how they are stored and distributed online. His knowledge and understanding of these techniques were the reason he was invited to join the team at Technology Crime in 2009.

During this time, Paul became increasingly frustrated with the lack of legislation and authority he had as a Police Officer to act on the concerns of the parents and educators who were contacting his office on a daily basis. The vast majority of those calls were ended with the simple phrase, "Sorry, but it is not against the law." It was upsetting to respond in this way, but in reality, Paul really had no choice. The internet has been around since 1994 in this country, yet legislation has failed (or refused) to catch up. As such, many schools, parents and kids themselves were being left to deal with such matters on their own.

Whilst pressing our government for change, Paul soon realised education was massively needed here in WA. He felt that if he could get his message out to as many schools as possible, the risks our kids were being exposed to every day, would hopefully reduce. Paul started presenting to a small number of schools within his local community and after a few short months his reputation had grown and the demand for his services had skyrocketed. In June of 2014, Paul decided to leave the Western Australia Police to pursue his dream of educating and Surf Online Safe was born.

Since then, SOS has grown dramatically and Paul now presents to well over 300 schools and organisations across Australia, including some of this states most prestigious colleges. Pauls' reputation as a high quality presenter is continuing to grow to the point that he is now considered one of Australia's leading presenters on the subject of Cyber Safety.

In 2016, over 65 thousand students, parents or educators had seen an SOS presentation. He has been presenting to many of his schools for 4 years, becoming a regular part of the schools education network. The demand for Pauls' services has increased dramatically and this clearly reflects on the high quality of his work and the passion he has for education on this ever changing environment. In 2016, Paul was awarded a National Police Service Medal for his continued service to our community, even though he had been retired for 2 years.

Paul's qualifications include, A+ Certification in Computer Technology, Certifications in Computer Forensics and Social Media Marketing as well as a Diploma in Public Speaking. He also holds a Certificate IV in Education and numerous other qualifications in design and technology.

For more information on Paul, please visit his LinkedIn Page at [au.linkedin.com/in/surfonlinesafe](http://au.linkedin.com/in/surfonlinesafe) or his website at [www.surfonlinesafe.com.au](http://www.surfonlinesafe.com.au). To contact Paul please email him at [paul.litherland@surfonlinesafe.com.au](mailto:paul.litherland@surfonlinesafe.com.au).

