

Racist gets 18 months' prison for stabbing skinhead

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In June, 1999, Patrick John O'Sullivan told The Age that he was "sick of hearing about how all those poor niggers and gooks are underprivileged".

A month earlier at a housewarming in Fitzroy, O'Sullivan was also sick of hearing from a reformed skinhead that he could not consider himself a Nazi because he did not have German blood.

So O'Sullivan bashed the man after he challenged his views. The victim also felt "a prick sensation". O'Sullivan had stabbed him three times.

Last week, a County Court jury found O'Sullivan guilty of intentionally causing serious injury and intentionally causing injury. He had pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Judge Bill White yesterday sentenced O'Sullivan, the Victorian leader of the World Church of the Creator - an ally of the Ku Klux Klan, to prison for a maximum of 33 months for the "violent" and "cowardly" attack. After hearing that he would be eligible for parole in 18 months, O'Sullivan danced in the dock before being taken into custody.

His victim, who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, sustained wounds up to five centimetres deep that missed vital organs. He also lost two teeth after being headbutted by O'Sullivan, who was chanting "white power" - echoing the racial slogan tattooed on his chest.

O'Sullivan, who had attended a tattoo awards night before going to the party on May 16, 1999, had consumed alcohol on the night, which affected his judgment and self-control, the court heard yesterday.

Judge White told O'Sullivan, an unemployed 31-year-old from North Melbourne, that his other tattoos such as "nazi" and "rahowa" (which stands for racial holy war) succinctly stated "your strong views on racism". Judge White said these views would be treated with contempt by "the vast majority of Australians".

Judge White disagreed with O'Sullivan's defence counsel that the tattoos would make time in prison arduous for his client by putting him at risk of attack.

In 1999, O'Sullivan wrote a letter of support to John King, who was sentenced to death after tying a black man to a truck and dragging him to death in the US.

He also said: "I believe that whatever is good for the white race is the ultimate virtue. Whatever is bad for the white race is the ultimate sin."

Caption: Photo: Patrick John O'Sullivan shows off his tattoos in 1999. PICTURE: CRAIG SILLITOE

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