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## Memory loss common with P 'Tweakers'

The desperate escape attempt following a crime spree by Stephen McDonald may well be a total blur as a result of P use according to MethCon Group Director Mike Sabin.

"Tweakers are meth users who are in the most destructive, violent and unpredictable phase of the cycle of use. Typically they may have been awake for many days, bingeing on the drug until their supply either runs out or they are no longer capable of achieving a high due to depletion of dopamine reserves and they start to experience drug withdrawal and cravings", said Mr. Sabin.

"It is common for people in this phase of use and withdrawal from pure methamphetamine use to experience significant memory loss while also displaying violent, unpredictable, and desperate behaviour, on the face of it appearing entirely psychotic", claimed Mr. Sabin.

The other major psychological disturbance experienced by a Tweaker is intense paranoia, to the extent that they will genuinely believe the delusions and hallucinations they are experiencing and this is further heightened when they are pursued by Police, as all their worst fears are now coming to fruition. In this state they seldom surrender compliantly to arrest", said Mr. Sabin.

"While it appears that McDonald was tweaking and may well have significant memory loss of the event subsequent to it, at the time he would have been fully aware of the situation, albeit seeing it unfold in a state akin to watching a video in fast forward. Beyond this, 'intoxication' of this nature provides no defence in law to crimes carried out", said Mr. Sabin.

"Sadly this situation is no different to what we saw when Antonie Dixon was attempting to evade Police and murdered James Te Aute and Karl Kuchenbecker was murdered in cold blood by Graham Burton, also running from Police after his meth induced rampage", said Mr. Sabin.

"The bigger questions relate to the failure of government and Police over the past 10 years to meet the challenge of this drug and make the changes that can be and must be made", said Mr. Sabin.

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Mike Sabin  
Managing Director  
Methcon Group Ltd (NZ's only specialist methamphetamine education providers)

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