



Teen jailed for attack on bouncers

DAMIEN BROWN

A DRUNKEN teenager who bit a Hobart bouncer and attacked another with a pair of scissors has been sentenced to five months' jail.

Joshua Michael Murtagh, 19, of Bridgewater, who has an "extensive" criminal history, was sentenced in the Supreme Court in Hobart this week on one count of wounding and one count of assault.

The court heard that Murtagh had been drinking with three companions at a Hobart bar on December 12 last year.

Justice Peter Evans said there had been some animosity involving Murtagh just after midnight and he was asked by

bouncer Chase Scott to leave the venue but refused and grabbed a stubby of beer by the neck and began to swing it towards Mr Scott.

Justice Evans said Mr Scott was able to get Murtagh to the door and was about to hand him over to another bouncer, Christopher Hall, when the 19-year-old bit Mr Scott on the inside of his lower right arm.

Murtagh then produced a pair of round-nosed scissors and struck Mr Hall to his brow just above his right eye.

Mr Hall required nine stitches as a result and Justice Evans said he continued to "suffer adversely from the im-

pact of this attack upon him".

"The defendant is just 19 years of age and has a most extensive record of prior convictions for one so young," the judge said.

"His record plainly manifests his indifference to his obligations as a member of the community and it seems that the conduct in question is a reflection of that indifference rather than a chronic propensity for violence."

Justice Evans said the other convictions included threatening a police officer, throwing a missile to endanger another person, assaulting a police officer, resisting arrest and using

abusive language to an officer.

He said the rest of the teenager's offences were for 23 breaches of bail, traffic offences, dishonesty, nine convictions for motor vehicle stealing and three convictions for driving while disqualified.

Sentencing, Justice Evans said Murtagh had been remanded in custody since the attack last year and noted that he was almost guaranteed employment upon his release. But a sentence was necessary.

The defendant was sentenced to five months' imprisonment to date from March 23.