

Carroll passes lie detector test

By Rachael Langford
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A LIE detector test of a man who denies he murdered a Queensland toddler 33 years ago has found he is telling the truth.

Raymond John Carroll, 48, was twice convicted and twice acquitted over the April, 1973, murder of 17-month-old Deidre Kennedy in Ipswich, west of Brisbane.

The test, which monitored Carroll's blood pressure, breathing and perspiration, was conducted by the Australian Polygraph Services for the Nine Network's *60 Minutes* program.

When asked during the test "Did you kill Deirdre Kennedy?" Carroll replied "No, I did not".

The result of the test found conclusively that he was telling the truth.

Baby Deidre was taken from her home and sexually assaulted, and her body - clad in women's underwear and carrying bite marks - was dumped on the roof of a toilet block.

Carroll, a former RAAF fitter, was convicted of the murder in 1985 and sentenced to life in jail.

But he successfully appealed against the ruling, based on doubts surrounding forensic evidence about the bite marks on the baby's body.

He was then convicted of perjury in 2000, but that too was overturned on the grounds of double jeopardy.

"It is a horrendous crime, yes," Carroll said in the interview aired tonight.

Carroll, whose teeth are defected with an overbite, denies the unusual bite marks found on the baby's body match his dental characteristics.

"The evidence does not add up. Bite marks are supposed to be so unique - the bite marks are so unique, they are compared to fingerprints.

"If my dentition is so unique, and matches (those) bite marks so perfectly, how is it that in the second trial the prosecution has come up and said 'Sorry, but in the first trial, we had it wrong'?"

Carroll denied both circumstantial evidence pointing to his guilt and claims by his first wife that he abused their first baby.

He also denied he was guilty of a bizarre break-and-enter at the women's barracks at the Amberley Army Base, near Ipswich, for which he was convicted in 1985.

During the break-and-enter, women's underwear was stolen and damaged, a link that pointed police to Carroll for the murder.

"Do you think it's possible that over the last 33 years, you have been able to convince yourself that you didn't do it?" Carroll was asked.

"No," he replied.