



## Supreme Court of New Zealand

15 February 2006

### **MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

**SCOTT SIMEON THOMPSON v THE QUEEN**  
**(SC 42/2005)**  
**[2006] NZSC 3**

### **PRESS SUMMARY**

**This summary is provided to assist in the understanding of the Court's judgment. It does not comprise part of the reasons for that judgment. The full judgment with reasons is the only authoritative document. The full text of the judgment and reasons can be found at Judicial Decisions of Public Interest [www.courts.govt.nz/judgments](http://www.courts.govt.nz/judgments).**

The Supreme Court has unanimously dismissed Scott Simeon Thompson's appeal against his convictions on charges involving physical violence against his former partner. The Court agreed with the Court of Appeal that the trial had been fair. No miscarriage of justice resulted from the jury hearing references in her responses to questions from defence counsel in cross-examination at the trial to Mr Thompson's imprisonment on an earlier occasion, gang association and use of methamphetamine. Because the offending began when Mr Thompson was being regularly visited by his partner in a prison, the jury necessarily was aware that he was a prior offender. The references to gang association and drug taking were directly relevant to questions seeking to challenge the partner's credibility. In relation to all matters there had been a proper direction to the jury of which no criticism was made on the appeal.

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