

Childcare centre to close by Christmas

ADELAIDE'S childcare crisis is set to worsen with the impending closure of a western suburbs centre a week before Christmas. The Hindmarsh Child Care Centre, owned by the Greek Orthodox Community of SA, will shut its doors on December 19, forcing up to 75 families to find new places for their children.

The closure comes on the back of last month's ABC Learning Centre collapse, which has made childcare places increasingly difficult to find.

Families with children in 22 ABC centres across the state may have to find new day care after it was revealed they are likely to close.

HCCC co-director Sonya Fechner said staff, who were themselves only informed of the closure last week, had been unaware the centre was in trouble.

She said they were trying to find alternative places

for the centre's 85 children.

"One of the first things we did, even before ringing the parents, was to ring around the local community-based centres because we don't know what the situation was with ABC (Learning Centres)," she said.

"The staff have been disappointed, angry, hurt, upset. It's like a grief process."

Parents had been shocked by the closure and were offering to pay higher fees to keep the centre open, Mrs Fechner said. Greek Orthodox Community of SA general secretary Sylvia Cassoudakis said the centre had incurred huge losses. "That's been cumulative over 10 years, it's just not now," she said. "In 1996-97 we had a consultant come in and they told us it wasn't viable then." Ms Cassoudakis said the centre was never looked at as an economical venture, but as a

strictly non-profit service.

Tamara Morena, of Croydon, said she was trying to find an alternative childcare place for her son, Lewis, 3, who had been attending HCCC since he was eight months old. "There are places around but I want to get him in to a place where he's got friends going to that centre," she said. Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Workers Union branch secretary David Di Troia said the timing of the HCCC closure placed stress on everyone involved.

"Closures are particularly difficult in the lead-up to the festive season as staff face uncertainty over their future job prospects coming into the New Year . . .," Mr Di Troia said. HCCC staff will be paid up to December 31.

Article from the Advertiser /Sunday Mail

Greek police arrests three Bulgarians, carrying 9 forged credit cards

Sofia. Athens. Greece's police arrested three Bulgarians, who were carrying nine forged credit cards. The information about the crime was sent by a bank in Brazil.

At Interpol's signal, Greece's police started surveillance on the three Bulgarians and arrested them on Sunday.

The information about the Bulgarians' involvement with the crime was reported by a bank in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The bank received a client's complaint over draw of EUR 2,000. The holder of the intruded credit card said he has never visited Brazil. The bank's cameras took a photo of the person who draws out the sum.

Greek news pickings on the web

A conference is being held in Cairo, Egypt to discuss spreading the teaching of the Greek language in Arab countries. One of the issues that is being discussed to be tackled first is upgrading the existing network of Greek language schools.

Distomo reparation?

Relatives of the 218 people that were massacred by the Germans in the village of Distomo during World War II have had a ruling handed to them in their favor. A court in Italy has said that the village should be awarded a villa on Lake Como, which is owned by the German government? A villa as a reparation? Please.

Rags To Riches Of Mumbai Victim

The British yachting tycoon gunned down in the Mumbai terror attacks described his life as a "classic rags-to-riches" story.

Andreas Liveras died in the city's five-star Taj hotel after it was stormed by Islamic terrorists. The 73-year-old was in the city to visit a yachting exhibition and was among 1,000 hotel guests herded into a lounge by gunmen.

It is believed the father-of-four, who'd gone to the Taj for a meal, was singled out because of his dual Cypriot and British citizenship.

Reports say the terrorists separated British and American passport holders before executing six of them.

Mr Liveras's brother Theopanis is publisher of Eurokardos, a financial news magazine in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Speaking to Sky News he said his brother travelled the world on business.

"He didn't imagine this would happen. He feels safe everywhere he travels."

Asked how he learned of his brother's death he said: "Somebody who was with my brother was shot twice and they brought him to the hospital, and from the hospital he telephoned (me) and told me to take care of him. Then we started worrying.

"I called his mobile and it was picked up by an Indian girl, and then I was afraid it was one of the terrorists. Later we learned it was a member of staff."

Born in Kyrenia, Mr Liveras emigrated to London in 1963, working as a delivery man for the Fleur de Lys bakery.

At the time it operated from a basement in Kensington. Five years later he bought the business, transforming it into the largest maker of frozen cakes in Europe.

In 1985 he sold the firm to Express Dairies and turned his sailing hobby into a business, setting up Monaco-based Liveras yachts.

The company charters luxury vessels to the rich and famous.

No-one at its headquarters would comment today.

Phaedon Anastasiou, from the Cypriot Foreign Ministry, said he had a call from Theopanis asking about his brother's safety.

"He was concerned and wanted news - I think he had heard reports," he explained.

"I phoned the British consulate in Mumbai and they confirmed Andreas Liveras was dead.

"It was a hard call to tell him his brother was dead - difficult, very sad - but I promised I would let him know his brother's condition."

Mr Liveras was pronounced dead on arrival at St



Andreas Liveras

George's Hospital in the city at 9.30pm local time, a spokesman for the hospital said.

Shortly before his death the businessman made a desperate call on his mobile phone describing the unfolding chaos.

"The hotel is shaking every time a bomb goes off. Everybody is just living on their nerves," he said.

"There must be more than 1,000 people here. There are residents and tourists and locals. We are not hiding, we are locked in here - nobody tells us anything, the doors are locked and we are inside."

Later that night Mr Liveras was killed.

His assistant was also shot and fighting for his life in hospital.

A widower, Mr Liveras has three daughters and a son living in London.

In this year's Sunday Times Rich List they were listed as the 265th wealthiest family in Britain - up from 532nd in 2007 - with an estimated fortune of £315 million.

In 2006 they earned £100 million in cash and £30 million pounds in shares when they sold their Nottinghamshire business Laurens Patisseries to Icelandic food giant Bakkavor.

Laurens was founded by Mr Liveras's son Dionysios, 49.

Alongside his father, he is now an executive director of Liveras Yachts.

On his online biography Andreas Liveras says his life had been a "classic rags-to-riches" tale.

As well as business, his other passion in life was flying. A qualified pilot, he regularly flew his own plane.

A post-mortem examination on Mr Liveras was due to take place at Mumbai's JJ Hospital.