



Dr George Pegios

## Patient's death under fire again

A DENTIST from Brighton Le-Sands faced a NSW Dental Board Tribunal having been cleared last year of the manslaughter of a patient in 2002.

The Health Care Complaints Commission took Dr George Pegios to the tribunal, which ran from Monday to Thursday last week and continued this week, seeking a professional penalty following a court decision to clear him of the charge.

In November 2002, Dr Pegios performed an implant on a patient using intravenous sedation. The patient suffered a critical loss of blood oxygen and died.

In court the Crown alleged that Dr Pegios negligently administered excessive drugs and failed to respond appropriately when the patient's oxygen levels dipped.

District Court judge Helen Murrell, presiding at a judge-only trial for Dr George Pegios in June last year, found him not guilty of a charge of manslaughter by gross negligence.

Judge Murrell found that Dr Pegios "knew that repeated low oxygen-saturation readings should cause a dentist to terminate a procedure" but failed to do so. "However, that was probably because he did not fully appreciate the extent of the medical... crisis that was developing", she said.

"The accused's negligent conduct fell well short of that which would... amount to a crime against the state and conduct deserving of punishment".

## Plea for funds to help furry friends

SYDNEY Dogs and Cats Home has made a plea for desperately needed funds as it struggles to keep the home operational.

The organisation's general manager, **Christine Baramilis**, said the home, which received lost and unwanted animals from 10 local government areas including Rockdale, Kogarah and Hurstville, "desperately needed" \$150,000 to keep it going.

Ms Baramilis said the shelter's annual budget was between \$425,000 and \$475,000.

"We have various projects on the move but they will take a little time to eventuate and at the moment we are seriously short of funds", Ms Baramilis said.

"This may have a flow on effect to the number of animals that we can care for and I do not want this to happen".

Ms Baramilis said the facility was mostly funded from charges to councils and the re-homing of animals but overheads for animal care including microchipping, desexing and veterinary costs were outweighing income.

The organisation has a re-homing rate of up to 94 per cent for dogs and 35 per cent for cats.

Ms Baramilis said St George Animal Hospital provided veterinary care and after hours care for animals since the home was established but it was time it stood "on its own four feet".

"In the long term we would like to renovate the dog enclosure and have another outdoor cat area with a vision to extending services to northern areas", she said.

The organisation has 12 paid staff and up to 70 regular volunteers who bath, feed and walk animals on a weekly basis.

The facility provides shelter for 60 dogs and 50 cats.

Donations can be made online at <http://www.sydneydogsandcatshome.org/shelter.htm>



Caring: Sydney Dogs and Cats Home's new general manager Christine Baramilis with six-month-old kelpie-cross Patch, who is looking for an active family. Picture: Jane Dyson

## Rockdale loses last of its kind



Rami Abdallah - President

TODAY'S Living Furniture store which has operated in Rockdale for almost 30 years will close this week.

Manager George Tsirakidis said the economic downturn has hit hard. The shop has had a 30 per cent drop in annual sales from the peak period two to three years ago.

Mr Tsirakidis's father Nick opened the business in 1979 after migrating from Greece.

George said the family had planned to continue the business in a different location.

"We've had second and third generations buy furniture from us", he said.

"Kids whose parents bought from my dad now, have kids

grown-up, married and buying from me.

"This side of Rockdale has become densely populated by apartments.

"There's just not the cluster of these types of shops that there used to be.

"There would have been around 20 furniture stores along Princes Highway between Rockdale and Carlton in the early 90's, but now we are the only one.

"It's sad for the community".

The property was sold as a potential development site for \$1.85 million to an unknown buyer.

Rockdale Chamber of Commerce president Rami Abdallah said the number of commercial vacancies had grown on the fringe of Rockdale in the past few years. "Hard economic times has meant a downturn for everybody and right across the board people are feeling it", he said.

NSW Real Estate Institute president Steve Martin said the second quarter of the year promised to be a good one for commercial property, with lower interest rates and buying conditions likely to attract investors back into the market.

"Of course, investment in commercial property is not without risk and prospective buyers should assure themselves of the security of tenanted properties or the potential for vacant properties to be quickly let", he said.

## Rejuvenation project of Lonsdale Street

Neos Kosmos reports that words for the rejuvenation project of Lonsdale Street are expected to begin in June and to conclude by July 2010. This was confirmed by the Mayor of Melbourne Robert Doyle when asked by Neos Kosmos English Edition (NKEE) to provide details regarding the recent announcement of securing \$1.5 million for the enhancement of the Greek precinct in Lonsdale St.

This amount along with another \$2 million earmarked for a Greek Cultural Centre was pledged by Premier John

Brumby as part of the \$8 million Cultural Precincts Enhancement Fund reaffirming last week's NKEE report.

The City of Melbourne who has also committed \$250,000 will be working along with the Victorian Multicultural Commission towards the completion of various projects.

The story of Greek culture and migration to Melbourne will also be detailed through a various plaques, multi-media and electronic mediums, enabling visitors to the precinct to also learn about the urban and social histo-

ry telling of this once very vibrant Greek precinct.

