



Telstra's State of the Nation reveals Australians are text crazy

AUSTRALIANS are prolific texters but the habit can get them into trouble, with a new report showing one in four have discovered their partner is cheating through a text message.

Telstra's State of the Nation Report canvassed 1201 Australians in May this year on their mobile phone message behaviour and use. It found four in 10 Australians send up to seven text messages a day, while one in three use texts to tell others about major events such as births or promotions.

But on the downside, one in four Aussies have found out their partner was cheating by reading a text, while a further 20 per cent had accidentally sent a text meant for their partner or lover to somebody else. Social commentator Mark McCindle said the report revealed the uptake and influence of mobile technology on Australians. "It's no surprise that cheaters can often be caught out via texting, given that an affair is usually secretive," he said. "It's likely the majority of communication would be done by text, as answering phone calls may arouse their partner's suspicion."

Queenslanders got caught out most, with 27 per cent finding out about their partner's cheating by text compared to the national average of 22 per cent.

Tasmanians and West Australians were not far behind, on 23 per cent and 22 per cent, while NSW residents were the most careful about sending texts to a lover. But Sydneysider Sarah McDonald, 27, broke up with a boyfriend after finding messages like "baby last night was amazing" and "I can't wait to see you next week" in his phone. "He just started taking his phone to the bathroom with him when he had a shower and things and I thought it was weird," Ms McDonald, from Castlecrag on the North Shore, said. Only 16 per cent of people in NSW said they had sent a text meant for their lover to someone else, compared to 27 per cent of West Australians and 23 per cent of South Australians.

The report also found picture messaging was popular, with Australians most likely to send pictures on their mobile phone of themselves travelling, of their babies or a new house.

Australians also admit to texting anywhere and everywhere, with 43 per cent saying they do it when they're by themselves to look busy, 34 per cent at the movies and 14 per cent in church.

Dressing for the mood

POPPY Monstakas was dressed in head-to-toe "trend", but she says she is far from the average "designer label" girl.

One would beg to differ, as her sophisticated and co-ordinated outfit was every bit the up-to-date style that has arrived in the suburbs with the advent of a new season.

As her name suggested, Poppy, 37, was bright, cheerful and more than pleased when asked to pose for this week's Fashionista page.

The retail assistant from Ramsgate admitted that she admired the designs of big name catwalk gurus, but always opted for a look that suited her.

"I would describe my look as funky, versatile and slightly boho I always dress for whatever mood I'm in," Poppy told Fashionista.



Colour was kept to a minimum, and she wore black tights, flat calf-length boots, a "peace" sign T-shirt and a knitted cap from Funky Femme.

Standout accessories included her twin chunky silver rings, a diamond-encrusted Guess watch, and a Dolce and Gabbana cuff.

LEFT: Bedazzled: A bit of bling teamed with classic black was a winning combination. Pictures: Lisa McMahon



Liberal staffer Anthony Scrinis quits over breast grab

A LIBERAL staffer was forced to quit last night after allegations he groped several women at Parliament's mid-winter ball.

According to complaints from at least six women at Wednesday's ball, attended by Kevin Rudd and wife Therese Rein, drunk Liberal Party adviser Anthony Scrinis grabbed women's breasts and "lurched from woman to woman on the dance floor".

Embarrassingly, he worked for the Liberals' spokeswoman on women's issues Sophie Mitchell, who today is due to launch a new initiative to attract women to conservative politics. He took the job only this week.

Anthony Scrinis had only been working in Victorian Liberal frontbencher Sophie Mitchell's office for three days when he scored an invitation to one of Canberra's most prestigious events.

But six complaints about his behaviour towards women later in the evening made their way to Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull's office.

The Press Gallery Mid-

Winter Ball, held in Parliament House, is Canberra's night of nights and was attended by more than 630 people including Opposition Leader Malcolm Turnbull and wife Lucy.

Mr Scrinis allegedly grabbed two women's breasts on the dance floor. He even attempted to grab the breasts of a breast-feeding mother.

One woman claimed that when she told him he couldn't touch her breasts, he replied: "Well if I can't grab your boobs I'm going to go grab someone else's."

Before that, Mr Scrinis was heckling the speeches and comedians.

Ms Mitchell, the opposition spokeswoman for early

childhood education, childcare, women and youth, released a statement saying she had accepted Mr Scrinis' resignation.

"The probationary member has apologised and acknowledged his behaviour was inappropriate," she said.

"Though he disputes some of the allegations being made, he has voluntarily tendered his resignation which I have accepted."

It's understood one of the women whose breasts were grabbed is a senior adviser to a cabinet minister who left the dance floor in tears.

One of the women had lodged an official complaint about Mr Scrinis' behaviour, it was reported.

One woman who observed Mr Scrinis' behaviour at the ball said he appeared to be under the weather.

"He appeared to be drunk and was approaching various women on the dance floor," the woman, who did not want to be named, said.

"He was pretty sleazy and kept trying it on, he wouldn't go away."

Ms Mitchell will launch the party's new Engaging Women initiative complete with a YouTube video and a plan to hold forums to generate new policy ideas.

It comes only weeks after the party was exposed to decision after the discovery of a blog set up by a Young Liberal featuring "hot babes" in bikinis and underwear.

Tim Andrews said his aim was to recruit more men into the Liberal Party on the basis of the calibre of its women.

Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday that policy makers often did not understand women's concerns.

"There's a lot of people in politics, and in business for that matter - men I'm talking about - there's often a real lack of awareness of the situation of women, particularly women with families, with children," he said.

Article from News.com



Bad behaviour... Anthony Scrinis with Effe (Mary Coustas) at the mid-winter ball in Canberra