

Greeks to reply over death

GREEK Embassy officials have promised an "official answer" to the way police dealt with the unlawful killing of Sheffield teenager Matthew Cryer.

The 17-year-old's family has launched a campaign for bouncers responsible for his death outside Cocktails and Dreams nightclub on the holiday island of Zante to be brought to justice.

An inquest into his death, held last month in Chesterfield, heard the Killamarsh youngster was "not behaving in any way to give bouncers reason to eject him".

But doormen dragged him outside, punched him, and threw him down steep stairs, resulting in fatal head injuries.

The inquest heard Greek police made no attempt to give first aid, stood by as the bouncers intimidated witnesses, and then failed to investigate what happened. No attempt was made to preserve the scene or interview people who saw what had happened.

And a post mortem examination held by the Greek authorities failed to spot Matthew's injuries - citing the cause of death as water on his lungs from inhaling vomit, ruled out as the cause of death in a later British examination.

Coroner Dr Robert Hunter ruled Matthew's death last year was unlawful killing.

Of the Greek police, he said: "Their lack of action beggars belief. It's astounding. At no time did they approach Matthew to give first aid and they did not appear to make reasonable inquiries."

As Matthew's family launched their campaign for justice and in the light of the inquest verdict, The Star contacted the Greek Embassy.

We asked for an explanation about the way police behaved and whether there would be a proper investigation into the teenager's death.

A spokesman replied: "We shall immediately contact the Foreign Ministry and ask for an official answer."

Matthew's father David Cryer, who lives in Middlesbrough, said: "It's a little breakthrough but I'm not happy at all because we are really not getting anywhere."

He added the family feels Greek authorities still "don't seem to understand" the seriousness of the case and the heartache caused. Derbyshire Police and the Serious and Organised Crime Agency, which has taken over the functions of Interpol in the UK, have raised the case with Greek authorities but say there is no way of forcing them to mount a proper investigation.

Meanwhile Matthew's family is continuing to collect names to add to 7,000 signatures already on a petition demanding justice for Matthew, which will be presented to the Greek Embassy.

Mum lends a hand to special kids

WHEN her son was diagnosed with autism, Roselands mum Annette Livas decided to use her professional skills to help other families facing a similar situation.

Mrs Livas is a registered and tertiary qualified counsellor who works with children with behavioural difficulties.

"All of a sudden I found I was using these skills on a personal level instead of professionally," she said.

"But this doesn't help because you are so emotionally attached to your child. Motherly love can blind you to what you need to do."

Mrs Livas and her husband John, a financial planner, started the Family Solutions charity to help families with children diagnosed with autism and other behavioural difficulties.

Based at Beverly Hills, the charity was launched in May 2008 and has since helped more than 100 children and their families.

Last month Mrs Livas was given a



\$25,000 grant from the Shane Warne Foundation, and she will use the money to run a free social skills program for 25 families with children with behavioural difficulties.

"When kids are diagnosed with autism they don't know how to socialise and can't make friends. This program aims to skill them up," she said.

"Because these children quickly get emotional, most parents find they can't take their kids out in any sort of

social situation that other people take for granted.

"So parents also get isolated and this can lead to depression."

Named the Cool Kids Social Skills Program, it is aimed at children aged 7 to 12 with a diagnosis of Aspergers syndrome, autism, ADHD and other behavioural problems.

The program, which is free for families who are registered carers, aims to improve the social skills and peer friendships of children, develop emotional intelligence, self-esteem and confidence, self-control, decision-making and group skills.

Families wanting to find out more about the course can contact Annette Livas on 9554 4365 or go to admin@familysolutions.org.au

Spreading her skills: Annette Livas, with son Jordan, 9, is using her professional skills to help children with autism and other behavioural difficulties. Picture: Jane Dyson

MasterChef's George Calombaris steams up fans

MASTERCHEF has dished up a few surprises this year. The biggest for judge George Calombaris is that he's officially a sex symbol.

Internet fan sites are filled with flattering remarks about the Melbourne chef, and female admirers are inundating his restaurants with odd requests, The Sunday Telegraph reports.

"One woman turned up with a bunch of roses, and the reservations teams have been inundated with weird inquiries about when I'll next be working, and whether they can take me

out on a date," Calombaris said.

Although Calombaris laughs off the sex-symbol tag, he told The Sunday Telegraph the attention was flattering.

"It's a bit of fun, I guess. It's funny, you know - I'm just a short Aussie Greek bloke with no hair.

"It's nice that they think that. I'm certainly not on the show for my looks - none of the judges are."

On MasterChef Australia's official online forum, fans have labelled the 30-year-old "sexy", "lovely" and "cute".

Calombaris suggested this heightened level of attention was built on his talents in the kitchen.



Sorry, he's taken ... but George Calombaris doesn't mind one bit that women find him super sexy / David Caird

"I've said to my mates for years, 'You need to learn to cook - girls love it.'

"Let's be honest. I bring a

girl over, whip up a chocolate soufflé, shuck some fresh oysters in front of her, make a simple salad.

"I'm not being funny: she's going to go weak at the knees."

Sadly for his would-be suitors, Calombaris confirmed he has a girlfriend, Natalie.

He also said he was looking to open a Sydney restaurant to complement his portfolio

in Melbourne, where he runs Press Club, Hellenic Republic and Maha.

"It's definitely on the cards. Still a while off, but Sydney is a place we're keen to come to."

Article from NEWS.com.au

77 confirmed (swine flu) virus A cases in Greece

New H1N1 cases were added on the list of the confirmed cases in Greece, raising the total number to 77. According to the figures released by the Greek Health Ministry, the new cases include a 65-year-old woman of Greek descent who came from Australia, two 19-year-old girls of Greek descent who came in touch with confirmed case that arrived from the UK, and a 29-year-old male of Greek descent who also came in touch with an infected person who arrived from the US. Of the 77 cases, 27 have been fully cured.