



## Orkopoulos' sentence cut by three months

Disgraced former NSW MP Milton Orkopoulos' sentence for child sex and drugs offences has been reduced by three months in the NSW Supreme Court. The 51-year-old was jailed in May 2008 for at least nine years and three months after being convicted by a NSW District Court of 28 charges, the most serious including heroin supply and sexual intercourse without consent.

Orkopoulos pleaded guilty at the start of his trial to two other offences, including possessing child pornography.

In June 2009, he began proceedings in the NSW Court of Criminal Appeal, seeking to appeal his conviction and sentence.

On Tuesday, his appeal against his conviction was dismissed but the three-judge panel granted him leave to appeal his sentence.

"I'm of the opinion that the appeal against conviction should be dismissed and that there should be leave to appeal against sentence and that appeal be upheld in part," Justice Peter McClellan said.

"The effect will be a reduction of three months in the total period of non-parole, with a consequential reduction in the overall sentence." Orkopoulos' barrister Peter Maiden SC has previously told the court his client may have been the victim of a "miscarriage of justice".

He urged the judges to scrutinise the evidence given by three male complainants, which resulted in the former Labor minister's conviction. Orkopoulos, who was not present in court, will now be eligible for release in January 2017.

# Relief for park users but more toilets are needed

MEMBERS of Hurstville Glory Soccer Club won't have to cross their legs and go looking for a working toilet in Penshurst Park this weekend - but they will still have to queue.

Club members cried foul over Hurstville Council's inability to tackle the problem of the park's one toilet, which had been out of order for almost three weeks.

Requests from the club to have it fixed brought no relief, with players and their families instead told to lob over to the Hurstville Aquatic Centre.

But following a phone call from the Leader, the council had the toilet re-



Shut out: Hurstville Glory Soccer Club officials say one toilet - which is often out of order - is not sufficient for the club's 350 members and their supporters. Picture: Jane Dyson

paired within 24 hours.

Club president Steve Iacono said while it was great the toilet had been fixed, the lack of amenities in the park remained a concern.

"We need at least two toilets for males and two toilets for females," he said. "This toilet has been

broken at least three times in the past year and I have no doubt it will happen again.

"Obviously, when this happens, people will use other amenities such as trees, particularly the young kids. Where else are they going to go?"

Hurstville Glory's executive officer, Nick Kozanitis, said the club was fed up with the lack of facilities at the park.

With 350 members - aged from six upwards - and 25 teams playing on weekends, hundreds of supporters used the park.

"We are talking about one toilet block in the whole park for everyone including players, mothers and children," he said.

"Last week, I rang the park ranger about the broken toilet and was told that they can't do anything because it is serviced by a private company. They sent a plumber down to the block but they couldn't fix it because it was an electrical fault."

Mr Kozanitis said the toilet had broken several times in the past eight years. "We are paying just as much as other clubs to use the fields but we don't have the same facilities as everybody else."

## Left the law to pursue dream

FRENCH furniture got Mary Avramis out of the legal profession into her own business. Mrs Avramis, of Kyle Bay launched an online French provincial furniture with her sister Olympia Angelis three weeks ago, walking away from an 18 year career as a solicitor last week.

"It was really hard", Mrs Avramis said.

"Even though I was working part-time, having two young kids, there wasn't much flexibility.

"I'm really excited about being able to do something I love doing".

The two sisters hope French Grand Designs will fill a perceived gap in the market for affordable and original furniture. "I have always been drawn to that type of furniture, but looking at antique shops I thought it was beautiful, but I couldn't afford it", Mrs Avramis said.

"Some of the designs we have are one-offs, and as they are handmade, we are able to customise them and make sure people get what they like".



Style sisters: Mary Avramis (left) and Olympia Angelis want to bring style and affordability together in furniture.

# Study on the experiences of Greek speaking cancer patients: A world first

Researchers from the University of Sydney are calling upon Greek speakers who have been diagnosed with cancer to share their experiences in a pioneering research study currently underway in Australia. The researchers aim to survey 1,000 Greek, Arabic, Chinese and English speaking cancer patients nationally about the care they received, their need for support, and their general well-being. Uniquely, all information and questionnaires of the study have been translated from English into Greek, Arabic and traditional Chinese, so that participants may respond in their preferred language. The study provides the opportunity for Greek speakers to share their cancer experiences to help improve

medical services to provide more culturally appropriate care. The study's Chief Investigator, Professor Phyllis Butow, said, "We are very grateful to everyone who has taken part in the study so far and hope to hear from many more people during the course of the study. Responses have been varied, ranging from people who have had a lot of challenges to those who were perfectly happy with their treatment. We are interested in hearing from everyone. This will help us to plan and develop interventions and medical services to better meet the information and support needs of all Australian cancer patients and their families." Eligible participants will be contacted by the NSW Central Cancer Registry.



CALD Study Team: (L to R) Eugenie Batterby, Prof Phyllis Butow, Evi Politi, Lynley Aldridge, Dr Sarah Abdo, Ming Sze, Icie Wan, Panagiotis Katsampanis