

# Abuse tolerated by 'good wives'

## EXCLUSIVE

NATASHA BITA

NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT

MIGRANT women who stay with violent husbands are regarded as "good wives" in certain ethnic communities, the peak multicultural group has revealed.

The Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia has accused some ethnic and religious leaders of trying to "cover up" family violence.

"Enduring the husband's violent behaviour and staying in an abusive marriage is sometimes

seen as a virtue and as a sign of being a good wife whose responsibility is to be submissive," the federation has told a Senate inquiry into domestic violence.

"Very often, the victims themselves become the offender in the eyes of the community members for trying to challenge traditional customs and beliefs around gender and family."

Women felt threatened by their husband's families—or even their own families—if they left an abusive marriage in Australia.

The Thai Information and Welfare Association has told the inquiry that some Thai migrants are "entrapped" in violent mar-

riages by husbands who threaten to "send them back to Thailand" or stop them seeing their children.

"Beliefs such as (that) wives are subservient to their husbands, that they are the lesser half of the relationship, that they should tolerate and excuse abusive behaviour to save their marriage, make it difficult for some Thai women to accept their own rights, let alone report the abuse to police," it said.

"The stereotyping of Thai women as sexually promiscuous and immoral by their husbands and the wider community contribute to the way Thai women are demeaned and disempowered in their own relationships."

The federal parliamentary secretary for multicultural affairs, senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, declared yesterday that Australia would not tolerate "cowardly" violence against women and children.

"Violence against women is very much an anathema to our values and will never be tolerated in Australia," she said.

"We recognise that women from diverse communities may face particular pressures associated with trying to build a new life in a country where the language, culture, laws and customs are all new.

"There are also practices that occur overseas which are forbid-

den under Australian law, such as forced marriage."

Senator Fierravanti-Wells said the federal government would spend more than \$100 million to tackle domestic violence over the next four years, including \$1m to translate domestic-violence advice into 28 languages through the 1800 RESPECT helpline.

The federation's submission does not specify which communities are at risk, but the federation's policy on emerging communities defines them as migrants from the Middle East, Africa, central Asia and Southeast Asia.

United Muslim Women Association chief executive Maha

Abdo called yesterday for more refugees catering to Islamic needs, including access to halal meat, prayer facilities and bans on alcohol. She said some older women were being abused by their sons.

The federation's women's advisory committee chairwoman, Pallavi Sinha, called on ethnic community and religious leaders to "speak out against family violence". "There could be some cultures where the norm is that women are supposed to be submissive, and that's certainly not the Australian way," she said.

Family violence hotline: 1800 737 732

# Tributes flow to three innocents 'shot out of the sky'

PAIGE TAYLOR

EACH night before the Maslin children went to bed their father Anthony used to ask them "what can you do?" and they each replied "anything I want to do, as long as I try".

Mr Maslin used the present tense yesterday when he and his wife Rin Norris honoured their three children — they called them Mo Man, Sweet Pea and Otie Bob — at a Perth service of celebration and thanksgiving.

The siblings — Mo, 12, Evie, 10 and Otis, eight — died with their grandfather Nick Norris when Malaysian Airlines flight 17 was shot down over Ukraine on July 17, killing 298 people, including 37 Australian citizens and residents.

In Queensland, the people of Toowoomba were remembering doctors Roger and Jill Guard from the same flight. Local mayor Paul Antonio lauded their contribution to the community and described them as amazing.

As bagpipes signalled that Mr Maslin and Ms Norris would arrive soon at the service in the grounds of Perth's Scotch College, Mo's middle school principal Richard Ledger told the 1000 guests the couple were enormously courageous.

Ms Norris remembered holding her children in her arms at all the important times in their short lives: their births, when they called for her and when they needed calming.

"When their innocent bodies were shot out of the sky, I stretched my arms as high as I could and screamed for them," she said.

"Now I see them only in my head. I can't touch them, I can't feel their warmth, I can't imagine the memories of their bodies close to mine and the love in my heart will always be open for them. My arms will always be reaching for them."

The memorial heard how the Maslin children was industrious and clever.

Mo, the eldest, skipped Year 5 on the family's return to Perth from Hong Kong and was constantly surprising adults with a general knowledge that stretched from the names of obscure cities to song lyrics.

Evie never gave up; when she learned she could not take surf lessons until she earned a higher swimming certificate, she trained through winter in an unheated public pool until she passed.

Otis, the youngest, understood there were hours of intrigue



WILL RUSSELL

Rin Norris and Anthony Maslin with friends and relatives at a memorial service for their children Mo, Evie and Otis, below, in Perth



## Convoy shelled on way to MH17 crash site

PAUL TOOHEY  
DONETSK

BOMBS landed only 500m from the Malaysia Airlines recovery mission in Ukraine yesterday as it made its way to the crash site for a third day of searching.

Vehicles in the humanitarian convoy shook as several bombs landed behind the convoy as it entered rebel-held territory.

The convoy drove to a new area to the southwest of the site, near the eastern village of Rassypnoe, where the cockpit of MH17 landed in the crash on July 17 that killed all 298 aboard, including 39 Australian citizens and residents.

There are believed to be many human remains at this site.

The observers from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe have issued a plea for villagers to return any personal

belongings that they may have found or removed from bodies.

Media were barred from the area, which is understood to be a key location for what the Australians call "the remaining remains" and to gather ballistic evidence.

The foreign teams negotiate each morning with the Ukrainian army and rebels to travel from their new base in Soledar through to the crash site. The fragility of the arrangement was evident from the near-miss bombing.

The team is now fully equipped with Belgian Shepherd sniffer dogs, forensic experts and cold trucks that have begun transporting remains to Kharkiv, in the northeast of Ukraine, and on to Amsterdam. More than 220 coffins have already been sent back to The Netherlands.

The Australians, meanwhile, have at least one propeller-driven

drone but are still waiting for permission to deploy it.

On Saturday, Kalashnikov-carrying rebels controlling the site kept a watchful eye on journalists, shouting at them to get under some trees when an unidentified plane flew overhead.

While work continued undisturbed for hours around the main impact site and more remains were found elsewhere, the battle between the pro-Russian insurgents and Ukrainian government troops raged.

Shelling forced some of the probe team to hurriedly abandon a village where parts of the plane are lying.

"We heard at a distance of approximately two kilometres incoming artillery from where we were and that was too close to continue," Alexander Hug, deputy chief monitor with the OSCE, said.

"It was close enough to decide to leave. It's not an experience you have every day."

As shelling was heard in the distance, 40 villagers from Grabovo on the edge of the site gathered around a wooden cross to hold a service for an Orthodox saint's day.

The road through the crash site remains open, with cars and pedestrians travelling past a couple of perfunctory lines of red-and-white tape, beyond which parts of the plane and passengers' belongings are still scattered on a field.

A wing lies on the ground as well as sections of the fuselage.

There are suitcases and bags as well as seats from the plane and shoes, clothes and magazines, some looking as if they have been sorted while others lie in a jumble.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING: AFP

EDITORIAL P11

## F1 boss takes pay cut as Napthine drives hard bargain in race deal

CHIP LE GRAND

BILLIONAIRE Bernie Ecclestone appears to have taken a pay cut to keep the Formula One Grand Prix in Melbourne, with Victorian Premier Denis Napthine describing a new, five-year contract as "significantly better" than the current agreement.

In keeping with the established practice of state governments, Dr Napthine declined to confirm what fees would be paid to Mr Ecclestone's Formula One Management as part of the new contract, which will keep the race at Albert Park until 2020.

But when pressed on whether the fee for the 2016 race — the first under the new contract — would be more or less than the fee for next year's race, Dr Napthine said: "I can tell you the new contract is significantly better for Victoria than the previous contract."

Under the new terms, the Australian Grand Prix, run in March, cannot be raced under lights and must be the opening race of the F1 season.

Dr Napthine said the deal "locked in" the current start time

of 5pm. "It is going to be run in daylight time," he said.

The twilight start time was a firm condition of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, which feared the additional costs of staging a night race would have made the event economically unviable. A later start time was favoured by Mr Ecclestone to generate greater television revenue in Europe.

The event cost taxpayers \$50.7 million to stage last year, down from \$56.7m the previous year.

The management fee was \$36m last year and will climb to \$37.7m next year, the final year of the existing contract negotiated by the Brumby Labor government. The government has yet to publish the cost of this year's event.

Mr Ecclestone, 84, retains control over the day-to-day running of Formula One despite facing bribery charges in Germany. Earlier this year he proclaimed his "great admiration" for Vladimir Putin and said he "completely agrees" with the Russian President's stand against homosexuality.

Dr Napthine said he didn't

agree with Mr Ecclestone's views on Mr Putin or homosexuality but supported the grand prize as a major driver of jobs and tourism. He said Melbourne beat competition from Sydney and other world cities to secure the event.

The Australian Grand Prix Corporation claims the event delivers \$75m to \$80m in economic benefits to the state.

The management fee associated with the race is politically and commercially sensitive.

The new contract was negotiated between the Australian Grand Prix Corporation and the private equity firm CVC Capital Partners, which owns a controlling stake in Formula One. Mr Ecclestone stepped down from the CVC board after the bribery allegations emerged.

The management fee covers some of the costs of bringing the event to Melbourne, such as transporting the cars.

"There is nothing that goes straight into an individual's pocket," Australian Grand Prix chief executive Andrew Westcott said earlier this year.

"Formula One is paid to bring the show to town."

## Scientific approach to birdlife



ENTRY DETAILS  
theaustralian.com.au/  
innovationchallenge

CHERYL JONES

BARRIE Titulaer is serious about science. The 15-year-old Year 10 student at Melrose High in Canberra has conducted a survey of birds in the region to study their distribution between man-made and natural environments.

With binoculars, a high-quality camera and pen and paper his only equipment, he spent weekends over two months gathering data from suburban habitats, open woodlands and natural and artificial water bodies.

He recorded the distribution of more than 2000 birds, ranging from cockatoos to pigeons, within more than 45 species.

He hopes to publish his results soon in a scientific journal. It is rare for students so young to publish in the learned journals.

Barrie intended to enter in the Young Innovators category of The Australian Innovation Challenge awards, run in association



KYM SMITH

Barrie Titulaer, 15, studies bird habitats and distribution

with Shell and the support of the federal Department of Industry. The Young Innovators section, with a \$5000 prize, is open to students aged 21 and under.

Barrie conducted his census of Canberra birdlife under an academic curriculum extension science program run by his teacher, Geoff McNamara. Under the program, eminent scientists mentor students at the school.

Barrie, who was guided by former CSIRO scientist Denis Saunders in his investigation, said he had no interest in science before he entered the program.

He wants to study medicine

after he graduates from school. In his view, science is important in "millions of ways".

"There are ways it helps us develop as society to have a better quality of life, have a more enjoyable life and to be able to sustain life for people into the future," he said. "There's nothing bigger than science that does this."

The awards, which have a total of \$65,000 in prizemoney, have five professional categories, from minerals and energy to ICT, along with the Young Innovators category and a Backyard Innovation section open to the public. Entries close on August 11.

## Union whistleblower to run despite arson hit

## EXCLUSIVE

EAN HIGGINS

HEALTH Services Union whistleblower Katrina Hart will run for a powerful HSU position and is prepared to give more evidence to the royal commission into union corruption, despite an attack on her home.

Ms Hart is understood to have privately raised with the royal commission a murky deal involving the now general secretary of the HSU's NSW branch, Gerard Hayes.

Mr Hayes was involved in arranging for a union official to receive \$15,000 a month for a year after she resigned, in a move which made way for a person said to be Mr Hayes's factional ally to take her place.

At union elections in 2012, Ms Hart, who is a health administrator and HSU local sub-branch president in Sydney, nearly defeated Mr Hayes in the contest for NSW general secretary, a position previously held by the corrupt and now jailed Michael Williamson.

Ms Hart told the royal commission in June that those HSU members and officials who tried to expose corruption involving Williamson then suffered intimidation and hostility.

The royal commission has expressed "very serious" concern

that Ms Hayes faces potentially life-threatening intimidation.

In the early hours of July 19, an arsonist used kerosene and wood chips to set fire to a tree butting up against Ms Hart's house. Ms Hart's son called authorities and doused the flames with a hose.

Police are patrolling her house with regular visits and phone calls. While Ms Hart debated whether to pull out of the HSU elections, she said yesterday she was determined to run for general secretary of the 31,000-strong NSW union.

"If nobody runs against Hayes, the members will not have democratic choice," she said. "It goes right back to the Williamson era — he was in for 15 years because no one else had the courage to run against him."

Among the issues being investigated by the commission are claims from Ms Hart and others of dealings surrounding the resignation in 2012 of divisional secretary Carol Glen.

That resignation allowed Stuart Miller, said to be a factional ally of Mr Hayes, to be installed in her place.

Ms Glen was still being paid more than \$15,000 a month nearly a year after she resigned, in an arrangement understood to have been orchestrated by Mr Hayes. Mr Hayes said he was restricted in what he could say on the Glen matter, but denied it involved any impropriety or factional interest, as did Ms Glen.

## Judges told to get back to work

QUEENSLAND Attorney-General Jarrod Bleijie says the state's squabbling judiciary should get back to work, after every sitting Supreme Court judge boycotted a public welcome for new Chief Justice Tim Carmody on Friday.

But Queensland's barristers leapt to the defence of the court, after a newspaper opinion piece described the judges' protest as "infantile, pompous and egotistical".

The Newman government's appointment of the former chief magistrate as the state's highest judicial officer has attracted heated criticism, culminating in last week's ceremony snub.

Of the state's 27 Supreme Court judges, only Justice Carmody and new Supreme Court judge Peter Flanagan turned up to the event held in their honour. Even with the high-profile absentees, Brisbane's largest courtroom was packed with barristers, other judges and solicitors.

Mr Bleijie yesterday batted away questions about whether the brouhaha was eroding public confidence in the justice system.

"I wish Mr Carmody all the best for the future," he said. "He'll get on with his job, and I think it's important that everyone, including the government, we'll get on with our job."

An opinion piece in Saturday's *The Courier-Mail* described the Supreme Court of Queensland as a "three-ring circus" and described the judicial campaign against Justice Carmody as "childish".

Queensland Bar Association president Shane Doyle QC said the Supreme Court judges had earned the respect and support of barristers. "There is no place in any fair and respectful public discussion about the judiciary for such an opinion piece."

Sitting and retired judges have slammed the appointment of Justice Carmody, suggesting he is not politically independent, and not experienced or intellectual enough for the rigours of the job.

Justice Carmody appeared close to tears on Friday as he thanked his wife and children for their support and courage during the storm of publicity.

SARAH ELKS

## Secrets of autism from inside

FOR Asha Tulloch-Hoskins, the secret to teaching children with autism is to give them "choosing time" frequently, allowing them time to study their interests and helping them clean up and calm down after a meltdown.

Asha, now 14, was diagnosed with autism when she was 5½, and her advice is built on her own experience of attending a mainstream school, which she describes as "horrible".

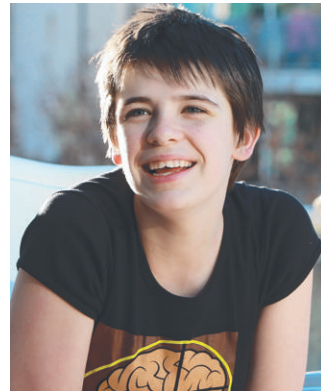
Music classes hurt her ears, the computers in the library made loud booming noises that also hurt her ears and she was often put in "time out" because of her meltdowns. When she became scared or confused, Asha would run away.

Asha is one of 81,000 school students on the autism spectrum who are increasingly sitting in mainstream classrooms, with varying degrees of success.

She is now happily settled in a Catholic special school — Our Lady of La Vang, in Adelaide — but to help students like her, Asha at the age of 10 wrote and illustrated a book, *You Can Know Us*, that offers an insight into living with autism and how to teach students on the spectrum.

It is advice she shared at the first national conference on autism in education in Sydney last week, hosted by Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).

Conference organiser and autism spectrum researcher and consultant Trevor Clark said experience in mainstream schools was patchy, and varied: "Much of the focus in autism research has been on diagnosis and early intervention and what we're trying to promote at this conference is evidence-based practice. There's evidence whole-of-school programs that create a positive, receptive culture in which the whole



BRITTA CAMPION

Asha Tulloch-Hoskins

school supports the child with autism... is the best approach.

"These children require structured teaching strategies and need their day structured using visual supports such as timetables that break down every part of the day ... Our children learn visually."

The program director of education research at the Autism Co-operative Research Centre, Suzanne Carrington, said the aim of the centre was to develop better understanding among teachers and a suite of best-practice strategies that could be used in the classroom.

"Autism is one of the biggest stress areas for teachers, particularly because of the challenges around social skills and communication and how that influences their behaviour. It often comes from a lack of understanding," she said. "There will be some schools ... doing amazing work, that are very supportive and knowledgeable about autism, and then we have school communities that aren't that inclusive and parents and children can have very distressing experiences."

JUSTINE FERRARI