



TREASURED MOMENTS: Kerry Briggs, 35, of Sheidow Park, with husband David and children Lachlan, 7, and Caitlin, 3. Kerry has terminal cancer but is making the most of life, helped by school mum friends. Picture CAMPBELL BRODIE

Public rallies to help mum in need

BRAD CROUCH
HEALTH REPORTER

NEVER underestimate school mums.

When one of their own hit one of life's speed bumps, the school mums of Woodend Primary School mobilised, raising more than \$20,000 in just two weeks on the crowd funding website mycause.com.

Kerry Briggs, 35, of Sheidow Park, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer

three years ago and has endured chemotherapy, radiotherapy, intravenous therapy, hormonal therapy, a double mastectomy and reconstructive surgery.

On November 26 the family received the devastating news the cancer had spread – it is now in her pelvis, spine, ribs and liver.

Chemotherapy to try to get her liver back working normally may give her a 50 per cent chance of living four years

or more but her condition is terminal.

Within three days of the diagnosis one of her "school mum" friends, Jo Perry, had started a campaign on the mycause website and within a fortnight donations from more than 180 people saw the total top \$20,000.

Kerry's husband David is staggered by the community support which he says will help the couple cram a load of family memories in a restricted

time for their children Lachlan, 7, and Caitlin, 3.

"We have been dumbfounded by the wonderful support being rounded up by the school mums," Mr Briggs said.

Mrs Briggs remains optimistic: "I just say to people, live in the moment, treasure every minute with your family, and let go of things that don't matter."

SEE WWW.MYCAUSE.COM.AU/PAGE/85636/BRIGGSFAMILYBATTLE – OR WWW.BRIGGSFAMILY.INFO

Schoolyard security focus

Cameras to stop bullying

TIM WILLIAMS
EDUCATION REPORTER

SECURITY cameras should be used to combat schoolyard bullying, the state's peak body for school councils says.

But the recent use of a camera in a student bathroom at a private school has raised privacy concerns.

SA Association of State School Organisations director David Knuckey said four years after the Education Department first rejected its call for anti-bullying cameras, bullying was more prevalent than ever.

The call comes after *The Advertiser* last week reported warnings from legal firms that schools should brace for a wave of lawsuits as a result of failed bullying policies.

"Nobody wants schools turned into Orwellian places, but ... the State Government has installed cameras in schools to stop vandalism and theft, to protect property, so why not to protect the children?" Mr Knuckey said.

"Placed strategically in trouble spots, they could serve as a deterrent and help reduce acts of violence. This would also free up school staff to monitor areas where cameras aren't appropriate, such as toilets and change rooms."

Mr Knuckey said not all schools needed cameras but the Education Department needed to "try genuinely listening to parents and considering all ideas, instead of instantly dismissing them" as it did in 2010.

"Four years later, they are being warned of lawsuits. The

Schools face wave of legal action as policies failing to stop scourge

COURT OUT IF YOU'RE A BULLY

The Advertiser, December 15

tragic consequences (of bullying) seem to have only worsened."

Acting on a complaint from a staff member, the Independent Education Union asked police to inspect a camera in boys' toilets at the Gilles Plains campus of private Burc College last month.

The camera, installed several years ago to stop students wetting and throwing toilet paper at the walls and ceiling, was fixed so it could view the handwashing area but not cubicles and was approved by police on inspection.

The union's state secretary, Glen Seidel, said the placement of the camera was highly unusual.

Principal Zeki Dengiz said the camera had since been shut down following the installation of a new 16-camera CCTV system around the school that includes a camera monitoring the toilet entrance. There is no longer a camera inside the bathroom.

SA Association of School Parent Clubs president Jenice Zerna said parents feared that if money was spent on cameras, it would be taken away from classroom resources.



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