

**LUCINDA IN STEP FOR A FITTING FUN-RUN FINISH**



**ROXANNE WILSON**

WHEN brain tumour survivor Lucinda Gregory crosses the finish line in this year's *Sunday Mail City-Bay Fun Run*, she will have more than one reason to celebrate.

Not only will she have walked 6km in her first City-Bay but it will mark a significant rehabilitation goal since having lifesaving surgery to remove a brain stem tumour in March last year.

"My surgery was pretty huge and so I woke up half-paralysed ... I've been doing rehab therapies every day since then to try and get my body back (in shape)," the 30-year-old of Prospect said, adding that it took nearly three months to take her first unaided steps.

"My neuro team weren't even sure if I would be able to walk again but I am just really determined."

Ms Gregory, an artist, will be wearing a T-shirt she designed for the NeuroSurgical Research Foundation, of which she is an ambassador.

NRF executive officer Ginta Orchard said their City-Bay team, NRF Team Neuro, had raised more than \$225,000 for neurosurgical research in the past five years.

- Early-bird registrations for the *Sunday Mail City-Bay* are open until August 31 and put readers in the draw to win a 2015 CMI Toyota Yaris. For your chance to win a pair of ASICS sneakers, register with this week's code word, TRAIN, to go into the draw.
- To find out more about NRF Team Neuro, visit [nrf.com.au/events/citybay](http://nrf.com.au/events/citybay)
- Register at [CITY-BAY.ORG.AU](http://CITY-BAY.ORG.AU)

DETERMINED: Brain tumour survivor Lucinda Gregory, centre, with City-Bay teammates, friend Miles Wilson and NRF researcher Stephanie Plummer. Picture: CALUM ROBERTSON

# Checks on all volunteers, plead parents

**TIM WILLIAMS**  
EDUCATION REPORTER

MOST parents and principals want school volunteers to have to pass police checks before they can work with children.

A survey by peak body the SA Association of State School Organisations found 94.4 per cent of more than 1000 respondents wanted mandatory screening for all volunteers.

And nine out of 10 principals agreed all parents should be screened. The survey was prompted by revelations in the *Sunday Mail* this month that dozens of people who previously failed screenings could be volunteering under relaxed rules that don't require checks if parents volunteer with their own children's activities.

SAASSO director David Knuckey said: "Parents and staff were clear in their comments that the safety of their children far outweighs the costs of testing all volunteers.

Hopefully, the Weatherill Government will heed this warning from the community and correct the situation before someone else slips through the cracks and a child suffers as a consequence.

More than three-quarters of respondents were school volunteers, close to a quarter worked in schools, more than 90 per cent were parents – and 95 per cent had undergone a screening. Their comments included: "You cannot have a half-cocked rule when it comes to the safety of children" and "the Government is more concerned with saving money than protecting our children".

A Freedom of Information request by Opposition education spokesman John Gardner showed 46 people who sought to become school volunteers had failed screening checks – which include criminal history and information from child-protection databases – over the past two years.

In January, changes were made allowing parents to volunteer or coach sports teams without checks if their own children were involved. Checks are still required for parents going on camps or having "close personal contact" with children with disabilities.

The changes were in line with recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and promoted as reducing barriers to volunteering after years of complaints about long waits for screening. But in SA's Child Protection Systems Royal Commission report, Commissioner Margaret Nyland said parent volunteers should be screened if they had close personal contact with any child.

Child Protection Reform Minister John Rau said the Government was reviewing legislation in line with Commissioner Nyland's recommendations.

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