

Doctor subject of bullying complaint

KATRINA STOKES
BRAD CROUCH

A JUNIOR female doctor at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital says she has lodged a formal bullying complaint against renowned cardiologist John Horowitz, who is suspended over an "allegation of misconduct".

The doctor, who contacted *The Advertiser*, said she was one of multiple junior doctors who had complained this year about Professor Horowitz's professional behaviour.

It is unknown whether her complaint is the subject of his suspension. Prof Horowitz has been an outspoken critic of the Government's Transforming Health agenda. The junior doctor, who wants to remain anonymous, said she didn't believe his suspension involved his outspoken criticism.

Prof Horowitz yesterday told *The Advertiser* he had been the subject of five bullying complaints in the past nine months - all of which, he said had been "dealt with". "I don't know what it (the suspension) could be. I could certainly be accused of a lower-end scale of bullying in terms of speaking sharply to people - but I'm always constructive."

Car thief tackled in Hawk's nest raid

CASSIE ZERVOs

HAWTHORN midfielder Brendan Whittecross has recalled the moment he went into "fight or flight mode" when a burglar fled with the keys to his fiancée's Porsche yesterday morning.

"We woke up to one of our dogs barking in his head off," he said. "I went downstairs to find a bloke in the house looking for keys, so your instincts kick in. I went into fight mode and I chased him."

"My thought was if I could handle Hodgey (Luke Hodge) when he's a bit fired up, I could handle anybody."

Whittecross said the offenders tried to "superman" through the front window a few times but got tangled up in the fly screen. The Porsche was later found dumped in Melbourne's south-east.

A Wantman man, 21, has been charged with aggravated burglary and theft and will appear in court today. Another man, 26, remains in hospital under police guard and is yet to be interviewed. Police are still searching for a third person who fled from the Porsche.

Shape up NAPLAN with mandatory fitness tests

TIM WILLIAMS

ALMOST half of South Australian parents want student fitness tests included in NAPLAN as a health and anti-obesity measure.

UniSA exercise expert Prof Kevin Norton agrees and says that Australia should adopt a strict Singapore model for mandatory fitness tests that penalises schools if benchmarks are not met.

His comments came after a survey by public school parent group the SA Association of State School Organisations found 46.5 per cent of 832 re-

spondents backed the addition of fitness to NAPLAN literacy and numeracy tests.

Director David Knuckey said the results showed parents' concern over children's declining health and fitness, also evidenced by growing obesity rates and Australia's "D-" rating in the international Physical Activity Report Card.

He said "physical literacy and fitness" could be assessed by measuring skills such as running, jumping, cycling, catching and throwing, and testing children's understanding of "the role physical fitness plays in health and academic success".

Prof Norton, who has worked with the Singapore government on fitness testing, said all Singaporean students faced annual tests including shuttle running and modified chin-ups. Parents of overweight children were called in to school to meet with dietitians and there were also funding penalties for underperforming schools.

"Something as significant as that is perhaps what's required (in Australia)," he said. "It's like putting taxes on sugary drinks. It changes behaviour."

The survey found 63 per cent support for introducing

"standing desks" in schools; 68 per cent for more fitness classes, 50 per cent for compulsory physical education up to Year 12; and 80 per cent for all schools to have a qualified PE teacher. Nine in 10 respondents were parents and 18 per cent worked in schools.

Health and PE is compulsory to Year 10 under the Australian Curriculum.

The SA Education Department recommends an average of 128 minutes per week.

The department said Year 11s and 12s could study PE as a SACE subject, while principals could choose the classroom

furniture that "suits the delivery of their educational programs".

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, which runs NAPLAN, said there were no plans for fitness tests.

Any changes to the scope of NAPLAN must be approved by the COAG Education Council of Australia's nine education ministers.

The State Opposition said public schools should have more freedom to engage private sport coaches and share resources with local clubs.

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TRIO SAYS PARK IS READY TO SWING INTO ACTION

TESTING: The Clark children, Tabitha, 8, and twins Spencer and Harvey, 4, of Evanston Park, give the tick of approval to the new, ultra-modern playground at Modbury, which they put through its paces. The \$670,000 playground in Civic Park is due to open this weekend with three play zones, a three-storey tower, climbing frame, rope swing and sound and music elements. It will be open in time for carols in the park on December 11. Picture: STEPHEN LAFFER

Splash down at Coober Pedy but Karoonda dry

JADE GAILBERGER

COOBER Pedy's long hot summer got a whole lot cooler with the opening of a "new" swimming pool - but Karoonda in the Murray Mallee has been left high and dry for the third consecutive year.

The state's opal mining town is celebrating after a cash boost from the State Government to cover staffing and maintenance costs to open the school pool to the public.

The announcement comes

Opal town left high and dry



The Advertiser on Monday.

after *The Advertiser* this week highlighted children in Coober Pedy faced a blistering summer without pool access.

The State Government has said it will cover the pool costs over the summer while a long-term arrangement is being formalised with the Coober Pedy council.

Coober Pedy council Mayor Michelle Provatidis yesterday praised the State Government for "assisting us to open the school pool for the community over the summer".

But Karoonda will spend its third summer without a pool, with local students forced to travel up to 100km for swimming lessons after its 17m pool closed for repairs in 2014.

The pool was deemed "unsalvageable" by the Education Department which estimated a new 25m pool would be a "cost

prohibitive" \$1.4 million. The department has promised the school \$300,000 to replace the pool.

In a letter obtained by *The Advertiser*, in September Education Minister Susan Close wrote to Karoonda East Murray Council chief executive Peter Smithson and said: "In the interest of reaching a solution, the department is open to releasing the pool, land and associated infrastructure to the Karoonda East Murray Council should the council wish to

accept responsibility and management of the pool facility".

Mr Smithson said that as a small, regional council it would not take on the responsibility of a Department asset.

"It's the third year so I really feel for the students and our community," he said.

Karoonda Area School Principal Daniel Rankine said after Education Department and council contributions, the school will try to make up the shortfall with grants and its own budget.