



Natasha Stott Despoja

There's a mayor in there

DEMOCRATS senator Natasha Stott Despoja has been urged to run for the job of Lord Mayor of Adelaide.

Senior business and political figures are believed to have approached the senator over the past few weeks.

She has said she will not contest the next federal election and her term as senator expires in June next year.

The high profile former Democrats leader shocked the party in October when she said she would be giving priority to her family. She and husband Ian Smith have a two-year-old son.

Yesterday she would not comment on whether or not there had been any approaches to join the mayoral race due in the second half of this year.

But Senator Stott Despoja said: "As much as I love Adelaide I am definitely not running."

Donning tights for star billing

Siobhan Duck



Pas de deux: Ethan Stiefel and Rachel Rawlins rehearse *Don Quixote*. Picture: CRAIG BORROW

ETHAN Stiefel has again taken centre stage.

The American Ballet Theatre's principal dancer and star of the teen movie *Centre Stage* is in town to play Basilio in *Don Quixote* at the State Theatre.

Stiefel will appear in two performances before returning to New York to appear in several ballets, including *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*.

"I have played the role a number of times," he says. "Although I am quite familiar with it, there are some differences in this performance."

"It is a great role — very comedic but also with some technical challenges. I am open to doing another film if it (would) fit in with my dance career. I have worked my whole life to be a dancer so that is my first priority."

Stiefel will dance alongside Rachel Rawlins in Melbourne on Saturday and Tuesday in what has become one of the most performed ballets in the company's repertoire.

Stiefel has danced with London's Royal Ballet and the Kirov. He has made guest appearances with Boston Ballet, Zurich Ballet, Tokyo's New National Ballet, Hamburg Ballet and Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires.

Tickets from Ticketmaster: 1300 723 038.

Payout over rape by boss

Elissa Hunt

chief court reporter

A TEENAGER viciously raped by her boss has won a landmark payment worth more than \$260,000.

The woman this week reached a settlement in what is believed to be one of Victoria's biggest civil rape compensation claims.

The case comes a month after a County Court jury awarded \$20,000 to Carol Anne Stingel after finding she had been pack-raped by former ATSIC boss Geoff Clark.

The money will be paid by an insurance company acting on behalf of the Victorian WorkCover Authority, because she was injured in the course of her employment.

The woman, now 23, was barely 17 and working for the minimum wage at a country riding school when the attack took place.

She and another girl were

'I hope that the courage our client has displayed in seeking justice . . . encourages others'

— KYM ANDERSON

housed in a caravan at the property as part of her employment.

Robert John Norman Richardson, who owned the riding school, came into the van during the night when the other girl was out and attacked her so violently she still has medical problems.

Her internal injuries were so severe she was unable to deliver her two children naturally and was forced to have caesareans. Depression and panic attacks have left her unable to work full time.

The woman felt so ashamed of what had happened to her that she

could not disclose the full horror of her attack to police, admitting only that Richardson had indecently assaulted her. She later gave police details of the rape.

Richardson was convicted of that offence — as well as of indecent assaults on three other girls he employed — but was never prosecuted for the more serious charge of rape. He was jailed in 2004 for at least four years.

The civil claim was due to be heard in the Supreme Court but reached a settlement exceeding \$260,000 before trial.

The woman's solicitor, Kym Anderson from Arnold Thomas and Becker, said her client had bravely fought for justice.

"I hope that the courage our client has displayed in seeking justice against her former employer encourages others who may find themselves in similar horrific circumstances to come forward and seek compensation," she said.

Family afraid to go home

Paul Anderson

A YOUNG childcare worker who endured a terrifying sex attack in her bedroom — and her family — are too traumatised to return home.

The woman was asleep when her balaclava-clad attacker woke her and tied her up.

Police believe he had "done his homework" and stalked his victim before bashing and sexually assaulting her.

Her mother and sister were not at the Eltham North home when the attacker struck about 2.20am on Saturday.

He cut a flywire screen, climbed through a window and made his way to the woman's bedroom.

"The young lady concerned is absolutely devastated," said Acting Det Insp Simon Clemence, of the sexual crimes squad.

"None of the family can even go back to the house. They had to purchase new clothes because they could not physically set foot in the house."

"I've seen a lot of people damaged by serious

crime, but I've never seen people damaged as badly as these people."

Police said the attacker had gone to the house "very well prepared".

"We think he's done his homework and deliberately targeted this address," Acting Det Insp Clemence said.

After the assault, the attacker locked the woman in her bedroom and threw away her mobile phone.

A neighbour came to her aid after initially thinking her cries were a neighbourhood cat.

Soon after, three youths in Greenhill Rd, about 2km away, saw a man wearing a balaclava who might have been carrying a metal pipe.

Investigators asked local residents to keep a lookout for discarded objects such as a balaclava, gloves or a metal pipe.

"If anyone finds an object like that, we would ask them definitely not to touch it and to contact us," Acting Det Insp Clemence said.

Anyone with information should call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

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