



Bouncers in lawsuit

SUE HEWITT

A MELBOURNE woman claims she had become a victim of allegedly violent bouncers at Crown casino months before the death of a patron.

She claims to have been attacked and pinned to the ground while her brother was being escorted from Crown.

In a statement of claim lodged in the County Court on Friday, her lawyers from Arnold Thomas & Becker are seeking damages.

Marisa Goegan, 44, claims she was allegedly assaulted on February 26, months before casino patron Anthony Dunning suffered a heart attack after a dispute with bouncers in July.

Lawyer Michel Margalit said while her client was celebrating her brother's 40th birthday at the Tangerine bar the brother was told to leave.

But it is claimed that as he was escorted from the casino, Ms Goegan followed, intending to leave but felt a bouncer kicking her ankle. "The security guard then fell into our client and she pushed back to get distance between the guard and herself."

Ms Margalit claimed Ms Goegan was then forced to the ground and "her arm was twisted by a security guard, which caused her severe pain as she had recently had surgery".

Biker medics roll out



Revved up: Nick Thresher with one of the three-wheeled motorbikes. Picture: TONY GOUGH

LEATHER-clad paramedics will hit Melbourne's streets on high-powered three-wheel motorbikes next month in a high-octane bid by the Baillieu Government to improve ambulance response times.

The *Sunday Herald Sun* has obtained exclusive images and details of the 500cc motorcycles paramedics will ride on city streets and the new uniforms they will wear.

The new specialist Motorcycle Paramedic Unit will hit the streets within weeks, with a team of six emergency riders racing to emergencies at speeds of up to 140km/h aboard Piaggio scooters. The three-wheel machines will initially be used in the CBD and inner-city suburbs such as Richmond, South Melbourne and Carlton, but will be sent to regional cities including Geelong when needed.

They will also be used at festivals and major events such as the Phillip Island MotoGP.

Ambulance Victoria spokesman Tony Walker hoped the new bikes would speed up response times.

"It's all about how quick-ly we can get to a patient

PETER ROLFE
State politics editor

and treat them," he said. "If that person needs urgent attention, this paramedic can get to them and administer care until another ambulance arrives or cancel that ambulance if it's no longer required."

Motorcycle paramedics have been used in NSW since 1993, the UK since 1991 and Hong Kong since 1982.

Health Minister David Davis said the new \$3 million fleet would be sent into built-up areas for rapid responses to emergencies and would also be able to navigate heavy traffic faster than a regular ambulance.

"All Victorians will benefit from this new emergency response unit," he said.

Clinical trials by the Department of Emergency Medicine at Singapore General Hospital compared response times of ambulances with motorcycle-based paramedics, finding the motorbikes almost five minutes faster. The study found a reduction of five minutes in response times could increase cardiac arrest survival rates by up to 11 per cent.

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