

## Big win in the teen cancer war

SARAH KEOGHAN

THEY say an apple a day keeps the doctor away but, for young cancer sufferers, exercise is a better option.

A trial is under way to examine if exercise can help young people aged 15-25 during cancer treatment.

West Australian Youth Cancer Service senior exercise physiologist Claire Munsie has won a \$90,000 scholarship from the Sony Foundation to undertake the project. "Young cancer sufferers are already going through such a difficult stage of life even without their illness," Ms Munsie said.

"There has been so much research into adult sufferers and the great response they have had to exercise throughout their treatments but hardly anything into youth so I wanted to do something about that."

Jessica Olsen, a 20-year-old cancer survivor, welcomed the scholarship.

"Adolescents with cancer are losing the war as my age group receives the least funding for research," she said.

"I hope this is the beginning of a great opportunity for patients to maintain their physical and mental health while being treated."



Claire Munsie (right) has won a \$90,000 grant to help young cancer survivors like Jess Olson (left). Picture: Sam Ruttyn

# A squeeze worth \$20k

## Case dismissed but compo paid

**EXCLUSIVE**

LINDA SILMALIS  
CHIEF REPORTER

A FEMALE prison officer got nothing for an alleged "squeeze" on the backside from her boss during a night out at a Bavarian Bier Cafe — but has won \$20,000 in compensation for victimisation during the investigation.

Rita James took Corrective Services NSW to court over alleged victimisation, including the department failing to reinstate her into the position she had held prior to making a complaint.

While a police investigation concluded there was no reasonable prospect of a conviction, the NSW Civil and Administration Tribunal ruled Ms James had been hurt and distressed by the treatment she endured after making a complaint.

This included having to sit before her old boss who was part of an interview panel for an alternate job.

Her former boss Ivan Calder, director of the John Morony Correctional Centre Intensive Drug and Alcohol Treatment Program at the time, has since become the governor.

The tribunal heard Ms James lodged a bullying and harassment complaint with the department in December 2015, which referred to the alleged incident at the popular Parramatta beer hall. After losing the complaint, Ms James was found another position at Silverwater while an investigation was undertaken.

Despite later being given medical clearance to return to work in May the following year, Ms James alleged she was advised by email that she would not be able to come back while an investigation was under way.

Ms James alleged it was around the time of receiving the email that the victimisation began.

In September last year, the department's Professional Standards Branch of Corrective Services ruled the indecent assault was unsubstantiated.

In ruling in Ms James' favour, tribunal senior member Anne Maria Scallion said Corrective Services could have investigated Ms James' complaint about Mr Calder, without subjecting her to "a substantial detriment".

It ordered Corrective Services to pay Ms James \$20,000 for distress and "loss of enjoyment of life".

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