

# A REALLY FETCHING HELPER

KAITLYN HUDSON-O'FARRELL

CANINES have always been known as man's best friend but Richard Amos's son Fred found so much more in his assistance dog, Rosie.

Senior corporate lawyer Mr Amos's youngest son, 14, lives with autism, but the teenager's life changed completely when Labrador Rosie entered his life last year.

While communication and independence were always going to be challenging for Fred, Mr Amos said he was astounded at how far his son had come.

"Rosie is just amazing, I never knew what to expect but what she's done has far exceeded my expectations," Mr Amos said. "The idea that Fred can now walk around the block two or three times a day by himself with her, or go to the shops and get some milk, things we never imagined would happen are happening, it's incredible."

Rosie came to Fred thanks to the organisation Dogs for Life, which matches assistance dogs to people with autism or PTSD and returned army veterans.



Fred Amos, who has autism, has made great progress with his assistance dog, Rosie. Picture: JONATHAN NG

## POLICE BRIEFS

### FATAL SMASH

A MAN has died and a teenager was injured in a two-car smash at Heathcote.

A Holden Commodore struck the back of a Ford ute before crashing into a tree on the Northern Highway about 5.20am on Thursday.

The driver of the Commodore died at the scene.

His teenage passenger was taken to hospital with facial injuries. The ute driver, aged in his 30s, escaped injury.

### ONE PUNCH

POLICE are hunting a one-punch attacker.

The assault occurred at a food outlet in Lydiard Street, Ballarat, about 10.50pm on March 25.

The victim, a 21-year-old Alfreton man, and his mate were speaking with two unknown men when the unprovoked punch was thrown.

The victim suffered two fractures to the jaw and required surgery.

The attacker is caucasian, aged in his 30s, and was wearing a blue hooded jumper, light-coloured shorts and thongs.

### DRUG CHARGES

TWO men have been charged over a massive drug bust in Tullamarine.

Police said they raided an Athena Close home on March 31 and uncovered a stash of drugs, cash and two luxury Range Rovers.

A 29-year-old Tullamarine man was arrested and charged with trafficking a commercial quantity of meth and knowingly dealing with the proceeds of crime.

Last October a 32-year-old Southbank man was charged with trafficking meth and dealing with the proceeds of crime, as well as firearms offences.

CONTACT CRIME STOPPERS PHONE 1800 333 000 [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au)

# New social contract

TOM MINEAR

## 88-point plan to tackle violence

AUSTRALIANS would be legally required to provide their driver's licence, passport or birth certificate to open a social media account under a bipartisan plan to counter family violence.

Social media giants would then have to hand over those details when asked by law enforcement in an effort to tackle vicious cyber abuse including impersonator accounts, revenge porn and online harassment.

The proposal is one of 88 recommendations of a parliamentary committee to design a

national plan to reduce violence against women and children, a priority for Prime Minister Scott Morrison and the national cabinet. Other recommendations include:

**AGE** appropriate education programs in schools about respectful relationships and sexual consent;

**A REVAMPED** triple-zero service modelled on Britain's "silent solution" which connects police to victims who are unable to speak or can answer only "yes or no" questions because they are in danger;

**FUNDING** for emergency accommodation for family violence perpetrators so victims are not forced to flee or stay in violent homes;

**A NEW** national commissioner who is independent of government and responsible for leading efforts to prevent family violence;

**TRAINING** for police, lawyers, health professionals and social services workers to identify coercive control, which includes isolating victims from their friends, tracking their movements and

controlling their access to money and communication; **TOUGHER** penalties for breaches of domestic violence orders; and

**A NATIONAL** death toll to track the full extent of family violence.

Liberal MP Andrew Wallace, who chaired the inquiry, said the first national plan — which ran from 2010 to next year — had "not achieved its objective of a significant and sustained reduction in violence against women and their children".

"Over the life of the national plan, governments of all jurisdictions and all political persuasions have spent over \$3bn in an attempt to reduce family, domestic and sexual violence," Mr Wallace said.

"It is clearly not for the want of trying that we as a nation have not reduced these shocking statistics that see the death of one woman on average every eight days at the hands of her partner or former partner."

The committee also recommended a "substantial increase" in criminal and civil penalties for online abuse. For help, call 1800 RESPECT

Herald Sun | Transurban

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