

Doctors 'dob in' their own

NEW laws that require doctors to report certain types of misconduct committed by their colleagues come into effect from this Friday, January 1.

The new laws require a doctor who is aware, or reasonably suspects that another doctor has engaged in reportable misconduct, to inform the Medical Board of Queensland as soon as possible.

Board chair Dr Mary Cohn said Queensland doctors had shown an increased willingness to voluntarily report misconduct in recent years, and that these new laws would reinforce this behaviour.

"In 2008-09 we received 27 complaints about doctors from their colleagues or a professional body," Dr Cohn said.

"These complaints have not been from doctors 'dopping in doctors' but from doctors who have a genuine concern about a colleague's conduct or health."

The board will perform an initial assessment of all reports within 48 hours to determine if immediate action is required to ensure patient safety.

Conn given green light to trade on

ABEL Rent a Car franchisee Steven Conn has been given the green light to continue to trade, provided he meets the terms and conditions of an agreement negotiated between the Office of Fair Trading and himself.

"I am just glad the outcome will allow me to continue to run my rental car business," he said.

"Since becoming a franchisee in May this year, I have overhauled the rental agreement procedures to provide clarity and protection for both Abel Rent a Car's valued customers and the business."

Mr Conn employs more than 60 staff in 10 Abel Rent a Car offices around Brisbane, including Ipswich.

Mother grieves again over grave vandalism

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A HEARTBROKEN mother whose son's grave was desecrated by vandals at Goodna cemetery, says she grieved for a second time upon finding the scene.

Last week Ipswich families were left sickened when vandals caused an estimated \$100,000 of damage to 19 graves at Goodna's historic cemetery.

The grave of Maureen Waller's son Mark (inset), who died seven years ago from a brain haemorrhage, was one of the 19 damaged.

"They smashed all the ornaments on the grave including a large angel which would have weighed a fair amount," she said.

"They used the angel to break a cross on the grave next to it and then smashed it on some other tombstones. I was so devastated. It was disgusting what they did."

Ms Waller has visited her son's grave at least once every six weeks since he passed away aged 42.

She was on the way to the Goodna cemetery when her friend called to tell her the site had been vandalised.

"We didn't know what to expect, but when we saw the damage it was unbelievable," she said.

"I was shocked. It was horrific. I felt like I was grieving for him all over again."

The senseless vandalism was the worst in the Goodna cemetery's 150-year history, and included the desecration of an



historic six-foot statue, The Headless Angel, which was 87 years old.

Ms Waller said she would like to have a word with the culprits

HEARTBREAK: The Heritage Park crematorium and cemetery in Goodna was vandalised overnight.
Photo: Sarah Harvey DE1709HB

when they were found.

"I don't understand how anyone could do something like that," she said.

Child Protection and Investigation Unit Detective Senior Sergeant Greg Williams said there was a group of four or five youths who police wanted to talk to about the matter.

"They're not suspects, but we want to speak to them because they have been in the cemetery before, and they live nearby," he

said. "We have been trying to track them down this last week, but we understand that some of them may have fled Ipswich."

The cemetery was one of Queensland's oldest and was established by the New South Wales Government in 1859.

The cemetery has been vandalised more than a dozen times this year.

■ Anyone with information should contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Flood water is not something to be played around with

WITH rain around during the holiday season, Hannah's Foundation has warned people that "water and stupidity don't mix".

To highlight the warning the Laidley-based drowning prevention, awareness and support charity said six people in

Australia had drowned so far over the holidays.

Hannah's Foundation co-founder Kat Plint said that with floods likely in the Ipswich area, a blunt message was needed to make people careful where water was concerned.

"We see people in cars with kids

trying to cross water, which can be completely unpredictable, and a killer. This type of stupid behaviour will cost lives if people don't think first," Mrs Plint said.

"Last week we saw a man and his young family cross a road that was a causeway and he was also drunk. His wife was clinging to

trees with an infant and another young son."

Mrs Plint's husband, Hannah's Foundation chief executive Andrew Plint said such situations wouldn't happen if people thought of the dangers first.

■ For more information see www.hannahsfoundation.org.

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