

Father's grief for daughter

LUCY HUGHES JONES

A GRIEF-stricken father who was forced to deliver his own baby because a Sydney hospital was so short staffed has broken down at an inquest while reliving the ordeal of losing his daughter.

Sam Amone was alone with his pregnant wife Sharon at Fairfield Hospital in November 2014 when their little girl was born with the umbilical cord wrapped around her neck.

More than three years after his daughter, Manusiu,



Mrs Amone.

stopped breathing in his arms, the emotional dad yesterday told the inquest he frantically called for help and pressed the emergency button, but got no answer. "As soon as she had the baby I just ran outside and screamed for someone to come," Mr Amone told Glebe Coroners Court. A registrar arrived within two minutes to remove the umbilical cord, but the father of three said it felt like "an age".

The inquest heard a nurse was able to induce breathing by slapping the newborn's buttocks, but the baby turned pale and could not be saved.

6yo kids a harm risk

CHILDREN as young as six are intentionally self-harming while boys aged six to 10 are more than twice as likely to be hospitalised for hurting themselves than girls of the same age. And the percentage of "serious" self-harm injuries is almost six times higher in kids aged six to 10 than those aged 11 to 16, a new study has found.

The study examined 18,223 self-harm hospitalisations in under-17s between 2001-2012 found the majority of those aged six to 10 were male.

Of the 124 children in that age group, 75 per cent of them were boys.

No bull, I was very lucky to escape with my life

A BULL rider who was gored in the head during a rodeo in country NSW at the weekend has spoken of his ordeal.

Danny Worth (pictured) was lucky to escape very serious injury when he was flung from a bucking bull only seconds into his ride at the Wingham Rodeo on Saturday. He tumbled awkwardly to the ground near the animal's head. The rearing bull thrashed wildly at the grounded rider with its horns, piercing and knock-



ing off Mr Worth's helmet and causing large lacerations to the side of his head. Mr Worth, 20, was able to extract himself

from the flurry of horns and said his adrenaline allowed him to scramble over a nearby fence to safety. He was flown to hospital in a stable condition.

"I suffered two blows from a bull's horn to the head where the first one ripped my helmet clean off my head and the second gave me a gash along the top of my head," Mr Worth said.

Mother pleads guilty over daughter's violent death

A MOTHER has pleaded guilty to her part in the brutal killing of her 12-year-old daughter by her partner.

The NSW woman, who cannot be identified, had been due to stand trial for manslaughter in the Newcastle Supreme Court yesterday before pleading guilty. Her partner was jailed last week for a minimum 28 years after pleading guilty to murdering his stepdaughter in September 2015 near Maitland. Justice Peter Hamill formally convicted the mother of manslaughter and adjourned the case to today.

The court heard the girl's mother began a relationship

with her partner — who came to Australia from the African nation of Malawi — in 2009.

He began to violently assault the woman's daughters from a previous relationship in 2011. After moving to a new home near Maitland in 2014, the violence inflicted on the girl who was eventually murdered escalated. She was tied up, beaten with electrical cord and regularly assaulted.

In the last week of her life, the man repeatedly slapped her across the face and punched her in the ribs. An autopsy found she died from acute blunt force trauma to the head, torso and limbs.

Schools have their moment of tooth

Teachers in dental health fight

EXCLUSIVE
ROSE BRENNAN

SUPERVISED tooth brushing lessons will be run in schools that are battling high levels of tooth decay as the government tries to boost access to fluoride in pockets of the state going without it.

NSW Health has released a first of its kind community fluoride strategy that calls upon local health authorities to work with schools and childcare centres to reduce tooth decay.

The guidelines note there are "profound oral health inequalities across regions of NSW".

"Local Health Districts should be aware of the communities that do not have a fluoridated water supply and of the high risk population groups that would benefit from additional fluoride strategies," the policy says.

"Supervised tooth-brushing programs are more effective than unsupervised programs at reducing dental caries.

"Childcare settings and schools are ideal locations."

Under the policy, authorities from local health districts whose residents can't access fluoridated water or are at high risk of dental disease will work with schools to introduce tooth brushing into daily routines.

Authorities will distribute fluoride toothpaste and toothbrushes, with teachers trained in brushing. Schools can also host "fluoride mouth rinse programs".

The policy affects "high-risk" groups such as rural and remote communities, Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islanders and low-income earners. These groups are often in areas where water isn't fluoridated or if it is they will still benefit from extra access to fluoride.

In NSW 93 per cent of the population has access to fluoridated drinking water.

But the Australian Dental Association NSW president Dr Neil Peppitt said in some remote schools only one in 10 students own a toothbrush.

"(This policy) rightly points out that some populations who are at the highest risk of suffering tooth decay don't currently have access to fluoridated water. These communities are mostly in rural and remote areas with populations that are not connected to town water supplies," Dr Peppitt said.

Health Minister Brad Hazzard said dental health was the key to "lifelong good health". "Anything the local health districts can do working with our schools to get some voluntary practice from children to understand the best method and frequency for tooth brushing will be a long-term fantastic gift," he said.

The anti-fluoride movement, which is likened to anti-vaxxers due to its baseless scaremongering, has been active in Gunnedah and Bega. Both councils recently voted to introduce fluoride to their water.

Port Macquarie's Henry Hilsdon, 8, benefits from fluoridated water and his mum Jane's insistence he brush his teeth twice a day. "Kids don't understand the consequences of not brushing their teeth, they just think it's a boring administrative part of their day. It's a bit of a battle," Ms Hilsdon said.

In NSW, over half of children have decay in their baby teeth by age six while 48 per cent of 12-year-olds have decay in their permanent teeth.

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Port Macquarie's Henry Hilsdon, 8, gets stuck into his toothbrushing routine. Picture: Nathan Edwards

Low-life Irish scammers flee after rip-off spree

A GROUP of Irish scammers who have brazenly ripped off residents, restaurants and shops have fled Australia, while others have gone to ground. Queensland police say five of the nine Irish tourists they believe have been defrauding people and stolen from businesses across the state's southeast have left the country. The remaining

Force of their details. The group of men, women (pictured) and children are accused of planting glass or hair in restaurant meals in order to gain free food, shoplifting and dodgy construction jobs. In one case, an elderly man lost more than \$25,000 when he paid men to repair his roof but they never finished the job. A Brisbane woman who evicted some of the families from properties she was managing was later intimidated and threatened.

