

Beauty surgery gains wider appeal

By DANIEL BRETTIG

BEAUTY may only be skin deep but a growing number of people would like to attain it through surgery.

A study by market research firm ACA found 41 per cent of Adelaideans would have cosmetic surgery to improve their appearance if they could afford it, more than in any other capital, except Sydney.

Fellow of the Australasian College of Cosmetic surgery, Anoop Rastogi said the results reflected an ageing population that was gradually accepting cosmetic surgery as a regular part of life.

Dr Rastogi said a raft of television shows detailing the process - and results - of cosmetic surgery, including popular drama *Nip/Tuck* and reality show *Extreme Makeover*, have also contributed to the result.

"Australians are starting their families later, extending their retirement age and wanting their physical appearance to reflect their youthful attitude," he said.

"Shows like *Nip/Tuck* promote the treatments as everyday procedures."

The public perception that physical beauty is more important than other attributes was also rammed home by the study, with 28 per cent of

saying they would prefer greater beauty ahead of greater intelligence.

Psychologist Mark Cescato, a lecturer at the University of South Australia, said a cultural change now honours image and not substance.

"It really shows how much we now worry about the image and not the substance behind it," he said.

"For me, it is a bit sad that people would rather have beauty than intelligence.

"One of the great debates psychologists have had over the years is whether or not people really gain confidence if they improve their looks."

Mr Cescato said aside from television, people become more confident in trying new things when they heard about it from friends and family.

Some of the study's other findings included:

FORTY-TWO per cent would like to change something about their partner's facial appearance.

FIFTY-TWO per cent of women and 41 per cent of men have become more confident about cosmetic surgery because of its increased exposure and popularity.

SIXTY-THREE per cent of people aged between 25 and 35 want to look younger, compared to 60 per cent of 44 to 55 year olds.



Looking good, feeling good

HEATHER Macgregor says cosmetic medicine gives her the confidence to "take on the world".

At The Clinic in Regent Arcade yesterday, Ms Macgregor, of Glengowrie, Microdermabrasion, a process that cleans the skin and reduces signs of ageing.

"It greatly improves the appearance of your skin, and once your skin is looking good you feel like you can go out and do anything," the 37-year-old said.

IMAGE MATTERS: Tracey Tertipis treats Heather Macgregor yesterday. Picture: GRETTA LESLIE-ALLEN

Driver's not guilty plea

A PRE-TRIAL legal argument has begun in the matter of accused killer-driver Eugene McGee.

In the District Court yesterday, the 49-year-old Adelaide lawyer pleaded not guilty to causing the death of cyclist Ian Humphrey by dangerous driving.

It is alleged McGee struck and killed Mr Humphrey on a stretch of the Thiele Highway, near Freeling, in November 2003.

First foster care study

AUSTRALIA'S first national study of foster-care children with behavioural problems is being undertaken by the University of Adelaide.

The characteristics, experiences and service responses for foster-care children will be researched by Paul Delfabbro and Alexandra Osborn from the university's psychology department.

The study will be used to allow a better understanding of their needs.

Lotto prize claimed

A COUPLE from the Riverland is \$230,012 richer after claiming the outstanding Lotto prize from the draw on Saturday, February 5.

The pair, who do not want their identity revealed, discovered their Easi-Pick ticket was a winner six days after the draw. They said it was easy to remain calm because they were in a state of disbelief.

A holiday in Italy is at the top of their list.

Child neglect laws stalled by Liberals

By NIGEL HUNT

NEW laws that will result in people who kill or injure children under their care being prosecuted for criminal neglect are being stalled in State Parliament by the Opposition.

Liberal legal affairs spokesman Robert Lawson is intending to refer the legislation to Parliament's Legislative Review Committee for examination.

The move will delay debate on the legislation for more than three months - sparking an angry response from Attorney-General Michael Atkinson.

"The longer the law is delayed, the more people escape liability for killing or seriously injuring children or vulnerable adults," he said yesterday.

"These laws promised to be a national first. They have been comprehensively researched, they've been recommended by the DPP and Robyn Layton's Child Protection Review, they've

been subject to consultation with all directors of public prosecution in Australia and members of the Model Criminal Code Officers Committee in every state and territory.

"Other jurisdictions are eager to follow our lead. Instead, South Australia is now facing intervention for party political purposes when I have already answered concerns raised about the Bill through a speech to Parliament."

6 Promised to be a national first

The new law is designed to close a loophole allowing people charged with murdering an infant to escape prosecution because the case against them cannot be proved conclusively.

It was introduced last year following the acquittal of a woman charged with the manslaughter of her three-month-old daughter. The baby died from injuries inflicted while in the care of her parents, but there was no evidence proving which person inflicted the fatal injury.


The new criminal neglect charge will apply to people with a duty of care to the victim at the time of the offence.

"I expect that the law will create an incentive for at least one of the suspects to say what happened," Mr Atkinson said.

In response, Mr Lawson said aspects of the legislation were a "novel proposition".

"It has not been done anywhere else," he said.

"What we are suggesting is that this be looked at rather more closely. The Law Society has put in a very strong submission against it and the judges have made some suggestions which resulted in changes."

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