

## legal matters

# Beware the risks of cosmetic surgery

### LEGAL QUESTION? ASK AN EXPERT

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- Send your legal questions to [legalhelp@turnerfreeman.com.au](mailto:legalhelp@turnerfreeman.com.au)
- Tune in to the Chris Smith Afternoon Show on 2GB on Tuesdays from 1.30pm where a specialist lawyer will be available to take calls.

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THE second case this year of a woman rushed to hospital after suffering a cardiac arrest while undergoing breast augmentation surgery in a Sydney clinic has highlighted the serious risks involved with cosmetic surgery.

Other women have come forward with horror stories involving cosmetic treatments performed at the clinic, with reports of permanent disfigurement, ongoing pain and significant additional costs to rectify problems.

The NSW Health Care Complaints Commission is reportedly investigating concerns that the cardiac arrests may have been the result of inappropriate anaesthetic use.

Under current laws, there is no requirement for the people carrying out cosmetic procedures to have specialist training in performing in-

vasive surgical procedures, meaning they may have no more training than a general medical practitioner.

This difference in training can result in a distinct difference in the skill and expertise between those practising cosmetic medicine and those undertaking plastic and reconstructive surgery, which requires specialist post-graduate training.

Cosmetic procedures can carry the same serious risks as any other surgery, including potentially fatal reactions to anaesthesia or post-operative complications.

Yet a recent survey found more than a quarter of Australians who had undergone cosmetic procedures had not checked their doctor's training or qualifications.

If the surgery does go wrong, and a patient suffers an avoidable injury, they may have legal recourse.

Compensation may be available for pain and suffering, psychological damage, the costs of future rectification procedures, and any associated loss of earnings.

These rights can arise from deficient medical advice, a failure to properly obtain consent about a procedure, or a failure to appropriately warn of potential risks.

They can also result where surgical techniques don't meet the standard or quality of service the patient could reasonably expect to receive.

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### BAULKHAM HILLS

## People's Choice pleases

ONE hundred dollars is a lot of money for a young person to win, but one Kellyville girl has shown the generous spirit of this generation.

Stephanie Milostic, 10, won the People's Choice Award at Crestwood Idol grand final last Sunday.

Her mum Therese Milostic said she was thrilled with the win but what Stephanie did next made her even more proud. "She wanted to give her cash prize win of \$100 to charity because she said she is so lucky and there are other kids who are not as lucky or are even really sick," she said.

Stephanie decided to donate half of her winnings to a children's cancer charity and use the other half to buy a present for her brother's birthday.

"We could not be more proud of her caring for others, humility and maturity at the age of ten years old," Mrs Milostic said.

Stephanie was one of 10 talented Hills singers who competed in the final of Crestwood Idol at Crestwood Fair on Sunday.

The competition is in its ninth year and boasts alumni Marlisa Punzalan who was a grand finalist in 2013 and, a year later, won *X-Factor Australia*.



**Stephanie Milostic won the People's Choice Award at the 2015 Crestwood Idol.**

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