



### SECOND CHANCES

- Children First has helped hundreds of children from developing countries access quality surgery not available in their home countries
- These surgeries include orthopaedic, craniofacial, neuro, burns and plastics, vascular, ENT and urology
- The charity receives no government money and is funded through individual donors, corporations, trusts and foundations

tumour nine years ago, but the small hospital where he worked had only basic equipment.

"The operation wasn't successful as the hospital didn't have the equipment or the capacity to do a biopsy before surgery," Dr Hasola said. But he never gave up.

"I know ... like me you believe every child has the right to surgery regardless of where they are born," he penned in a heartfelt letter to the foundation.

Victor's surgery was led by Mark Moore. The world renowned craniofacial and plastic surgeon said it took almost four hours and involved the craniofacial surgical team with anaesthetists and nurses.

Dr Moore is the medical unit head of Cleft and Craniofacial South Australia with the surgery carried out at Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital.

On Thursday Victor and Isaac arrived in Melbourne

where he says he will rest at The Retreat, a country haven also run by the charity, before the pair make the long journey home to excited family.

"His parents are very happy with the surgery and that he is coming home," Isaac said.

Dr Moore said Victor had a benign tumour called a lymphangioma involving his left forehead and eye socket.

"His surgery involved excision of this tumour with removal of his left, blind eye

and resurfacing/filling in of his left eye socket," Dr Moore said.

"The operation was a success; his healing of wounds has been pleasing.

"He will not have an artificial eye as the problems of infection and maintenance of the prosthesis in his home environment would be problematic."

Dr Moore says no follow-up is needed before Victor returns to Bougainville, but that Children First's partners would check on him and continue to monitor Victor until he is 18.

Victor says he is most looking forward to returning home and to school where in February he will start the equivalent of year 9 with hopes of playing soccer, perhaps even as a professional one day.

It is a long shot, he knows, but for Victor to even dare to have that dream is a miracle.

"My future is so much better," he said.

For the medical professionals who gave him that future and to the Children First Foundation who helped to make it a reality, Victor says ever so softly: "thank you".

For more information about its activities, visit [childrenfirstfoundation.org.au](http://childrenfirstfoundation.org.au).

# Killer's compo bid over eyesight

## 'Negligence' legal action

### Ashley Argoon

An aged care worker who murdered her former mother-in-law then told her son "you're next" is suing the state for medical negligence because she's lost her vision in jail.

Leah Marie Stensholt, 52, stabbed great-grandmother Carol McDonald in the neck amid a dispute with the woman's son over child custody arrangements.

"Ring your mother. You won't get her. I've just killed her," she taunted her former partner minutes after slashing the woman's throat "like a lamb" in her Moyston home, in May 2013.

Claiming she'd gone there to talk over a cup of tea, Stensholt's anger turned "murderous" when the older woman, 65, let out a "little laugh" and refused to let her in.

Now, she's launched legal action against the state and Correct Care – a corrections health service provider – claiming they were negligent in providing medical treatment behind bars.

In 2016, the killer and mother of six "presented with visual loss, severe papilledema and cognitive disturbance which was ultimately diagnosed as central nervous system vasculitis".

By 2021 and 2022 court papers state she suffered worsening vision loss due to a failure to administer her medication – including prednisolone.

The former carer is serving at least 16-years jail after admitting to killing Mrs McDonald when she went to her house "for a cup of tea in the hope she'd intervene" in a dispute

with her son over child custody.

Days earlier, her ex-partner Paul McDonald said he wouldn't be returning their two youngest children, who he was seeking custody of.

About 9pm on May 5, Stensholt drove to Mrs McDonald's Moyston home after downing six or seven beers.

The older woman refused her entry and let out a "little laugh" – a "hair trigger" that moved Stensholt "to murderous anger", according to court papers. She broke in and grabbed the old woman by the throat, pushing her down the hall.

"What have I ever done?" Mrs McDonald asked, to which Stensholt replied, "Don't f--k with me, you bloody evil bitch".

Stensholt stabbed her once to the throat with a knife from the kitchen and within minutes had driven home and told her daughter, "I killed the f---ing witch! ... I slit her throat like a lamb."

She called Paul and left a message, "You'd better answer your phone, I've got some news for you. Answer." When he did answer she said, "I've just killed your f---ing mother and you're next. I'm coming for you."

Now, struggling with her vision in the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, Stensholt is seeking damages, interest and costs from the state and Correct Care, alleging they breached their duty and failed to provide adequate medical treatment.

Stensholt, via Robinson Gill lawyers, did not comment.

A government spokeswoman said "as the matter is before the courts, it is not appropriate to comment", while Correct Care didn't respond.

## Plastic tax could raise \$1.5bn

### Angie Raphael

A European Union-style tax on plastic packaging could raise almost \$1.5bn every year, according to the Australia Institute.

Research shows the federal government could raise \$1300 per tonne of unrecycled plastic through a levy on businesses that import or manufacture plastic packaging.

"Australia is facing a grow-

ing tsunami of plastic waste and is expected to miss every recycling target it has set," Australia Institute circular economy and waste program director Nina Gbor said.

"We're recovering less than a fifth of the plastic waste used each year, with consumption expected to more than double to nearly 10 billion tonnes by 2050.

"If recycling was the solution to the plastic waste crisis,

it would have been solved by now.

"Unless we drastically reduce or gradually phase out plastics altogether, in favour of compostable materials, this plastic waste problem will continue to grow."

An EU levy introduced in 2021 requires €800 to be paid per tonne of unrecycled plastic packaging waste.

In Australian dollars, that equates to \$1300 per tonne.



Lisa Bonet and Jason Momoa

## Momoa tells of split-up

Jason Momoa is sharing what life is like after his divorce from Lisa Bonet.

"Bro, I don't even have a home right now," he told Entertainment Tonight.

"I live on the road. So, I'm down to New Zealand to start Minecraft. I hope everyone loves it."

Bonet filed the divorce petition on Monday, and the judgment was filed on Tuesday.

The former couple agreed to joint legal and physical custody of their two children, daughter Lola, 16, and son Nakoia-Wolf, 15.

Bonet and Momoa agreed to "share the living expenses" of the minor kids and will not pay child support to one another, the court docs stated.

Momoa and Bonet met and began dating in 2005 but did not marry until 2017.