



# Sophie's choice

WHY SHE JUST WANTS TO FIND A REGULAR GUY

stellar  
MAGAZINE

+  
delicious  
VEGIE PATCH  
SPRING  
INSPIRATIONS



**SIGN UP TODAY**  
AND GET THESE  
HEADPHONES

DETAILS P91



**POWER CRISIS HEATS UP**

SPECIAL REPORT P12-13

## Airport toxic shock

EXCLUSIVE  
KELMONT FRASER

TENS THOUSANDS of lives of toxic firefighting jets linked to serious human health risks were leaked as released on a dozen continents from a Queen's College of Brisbane report.

The list of jets forms part of an investigation into the release of 240000 litres of potentially hazardous firefighting jets of the fire on April 15.

2016 covering firefighting activities are listed in a report but can be legally required sites, such as the airport. **REPORTS P6-7**

## EXCLUSIVE ARTHRITIS WONDER DRUG OFFERS HOPE

# HIP HIP HOORAY

WE DUNLEVY

ACETALDEHYDE scientists have discovered a new molecule for arthritis that has the potential to deliver an effective relief for hip and knee ailments.

In what is being called the best hip wonder drug since anti-inflammatory, more than three million Australians are suffering from the same condition. It is currently in the final stages of joint replacement, which cost Australia's health system more than \$1.2 billion a year.

"It's a big step - one that just shows the progress we can make in the way we could change the nature of the disease," arthritis expert Professor Ian McInnes said. **REPORT P4**

The #1 place for property

this is the place



# JOINT WONDER DRUG

## Osteoarthritis pain could be a thing of the past

**EXCLUSIVE**  
**SUE DUNLEVY**

MORE than three million Australians, including top sports stars crippled by pain, are set to benefit from a new blockbuster medication discovered by Aussie scientists.

The osteoarthritis drug could delay or eliminate the need for hip and knee replacements, saving the world's health systems tens of billions of dollars.

There is currently no effective medication for osteoarthritis, which occurs when cartilage in joints thins and bones rub together creating stiffness and pain.

The degenerative disease is the most common cause of chronic pain in Australia and the leading cause of joint replacements, which cost the health system more than \$1.2 billion a year.

Australian scientist Professor Peter Ghosh and Australian company Paradigm Biopharma found that the drug pentosan polysulfate sodium (PPS) could reduce and eliminate osteoarthritis pain.

A peer-reviewed case study of an arthritis patient showed her pain went from eight out of 10 to zero after six injections of PPS over three weeks, and she

no longer needs a knee replacement.

Of another 30 patients treated with the drug, 70 per cent experienced a significant reduction in their arthritis pain, while another 15 per cent got initial relief, but the trial did not allow a seventh dose.

If a Phase 2 clinical trial, due to start within months, confirms early results, PPS has the

potential to delay or eliminate the need for 75,000 hip and knee replacements annually.

Sufferers currently rely on anti-inflammatories and other forms of pain relief, which have side effects.

Monash University arthritis expert Professor Flavia Cicuttini said the results were fantastic but needed further testing. "At the moment osteoarthritis is the last frontier of big diseases with no treatment," she said.

"If this drug works, even if it just slows the progress, you don't need to cure it, you could change the pattern of the disease," she said.

She said it could mean that instead of getting one \$22,000 joint replacement at age 50 and another \$50,000 replacement at age 60-65, a person might need only one joint replacement in a lifetime.