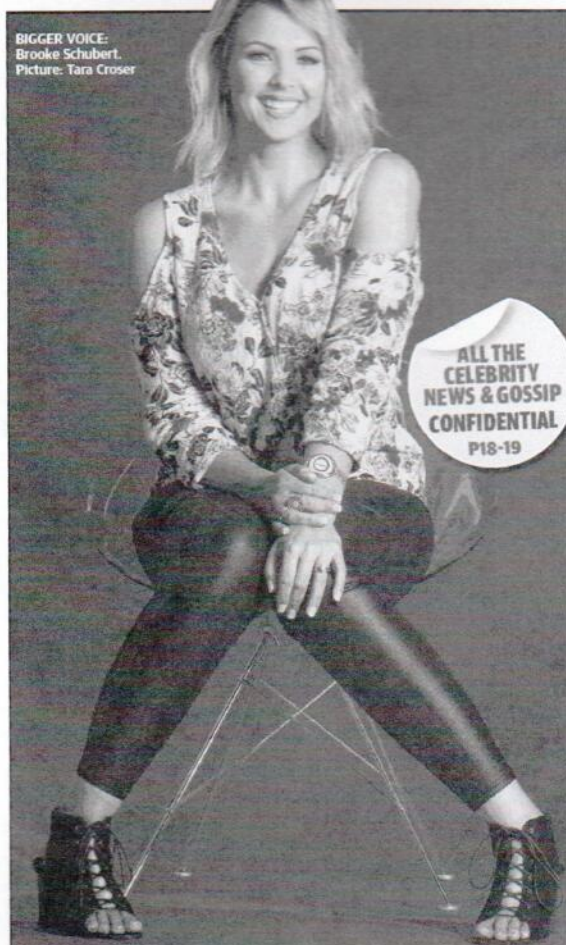


BIGGER VOICE:
Brooke Schubert.
Picture: Tara Croser



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WEIGHT LOSS BIG WIN FOR BROOKE

KRISTY SYMONDS

THE Voice contestant Brooke Schubert was given a new lease on life after losing half her body weight.

The 30-year-old mother-of-two, who hails from the central Queensland mining town of Moranbah, said she had always been a confident person but recently dropping 75kg and "getting to know herself again" made her feel she could do anything.

"I feel like now there's no facade and now I can put myself out there and release more music and for it to be who I really am," she said.

"I found that my vocal range now is so much bigger because I can breathe so it has been really amazing and I'm so thankful."

Schubert, who last night landed a spot on Team Seal singing Celine Dion's *Taking Chances* at the blind auditions, lost 30kg on a low calorie diet before having a vertical sleeve gastrectomy.

"I looked at the scales one day and I was 150kg and I was just like 'you know what, I can't actually do this, this is ridiculous I need to change'."

Schubert is moving to Brisbane with her husband Christian and sons Jonah, 4, and Jeremiah, 2, in the coming weeks.

After uploading a YouTube video titled *Dear Keith Urban*, asking to sing with him at his show in Townsville in 2014, the Caboolture-raised star not only invited her on stage but had her join him for the rest of his Australian tour.

Buck doesn't stop when you retire

PARENTS approaching retirement are finding their adult children are a financial burden and expect to still be carrying debt once they stop work.

A new whitepaper commissioned by super fund REST Industry Super has revealed Australians over 50 who are still working say the cost of paying for their adult children's education and helping them with a house deposit is adding pressure to budgets.

REST chief executive Damien Hill said the burden on older generations to support their children in their adult years was leaving the finances of both children and parents squeezed and costing them \$507 billion collectively throughout their lives.

The report revealed nearly half of older working Australians expect to retire with debt.

"We are concerned older Australians could potentially

have significant financial stress in retirement because of the debts they are carrying," Mr Hill said.

The research also revealed 72 per cent of intergenerational assistance is provided to adult children over 18.

The most common expenses parents help their adult children with include education (\$109 billion), everyday expenses (\$93.1 billion) and home deposits (\$68.5 billion).

Psych tests a new weapon in family war

KAY DIBBEN

PARENTS in custody fights are maliciously using involuntary psychiatric examination orders against former partners in family disputes.

A Queensland Family Court judge has labelled it an abuse of the process and "an act of family violence of itself".

Justice Colin Forrest made the comment in a parenting case involving a mother who twice applied for her ex-husband to be examined psychiatrically under a Justices Examination Order.

"The first application was refused but the mother's second application to a magistrate was successful.

"The mother sent the father a text informing him that he

should expect to be involuntarily examined by a team who would come to the home and break the door down if necessary," Justice Forrest said. "She insensitively advised him that he should open the door for them as she did not want to have to pay for a new door."

The father passed the psychiatric examination at a northside Brisbane hospital, with no adverse finding.

"I have no doubt that in some cases the use of the Justices Examination Order procedure is an abuse of that process and amounts to an act of family violence of itself," Justice Forrest said.

"I am satisfied that it was such an abuse in this case."

Dan Bottrell of Jones Mitchell Lawyers said the psychi-

atric examination order applications had been "weaponised" in some proceedings.

He said judges became concerned if a parent was applying for an order simply to have an impact on a parenting case, and it could backfire on them.

Family lawyer Deborah Awryzio said use of JEOs by one parent against another without good reason could have a significant effect on the other parent. "The embarrassment, loss of control, confusion and shock a person experiences when it happens out of the blue is incomprehensible," Ms Awryzio said.

In 2013-14, 1061 JEOs were issued. They rose by 7 per cent to 1136 in 2014-15 and by another 11 per cent to 1261 in the past financial year.

Alarm as pedestrian deaths step up

PEDESTRIANS are being killed on Australian roads at a higher rate, with latest figures showing the nation is still failing miserably on road safety.

Despite extensive road safety campaigns, it appears that

the message is not getting through to road users not in vehicles. Experts said drivers and pedestrians were too often distracted while using roads, particularly by mobile phones.

Of the 1240 road fatalities,

pedestrians were the group that had the largest increase, year-on-year. The number jumped 49 per cent with a total of 172 pedestrians killed on roads nationally, compared with 164 in the previous year.



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