



24 hours for life

THE Wally's Wacky Walkers group (pictured) is one of over 30 teams participating in the Goulburn and Surrounds Relay for Life over the weekend.

Nearly \$16,000 has already been raised for the Cancer Council locally, and organisers are hopeful of their goal for \$55,000.

More than 400 locals are expected to join in on the event to support local cancer resources and receive useful tips on leading a cancer smart lifestyle. The 24-hour relay will take place at Eastgrove Park South tomorrow, with the walk beginning at 9:30am and local entertainment to fill the day.

Registrations are \$20 per person.

Photo: Brittany Murphy



Pru plays office politics

By LOUISE THROWER

G OULBURN MP Pru Goward has been "caught out" about the reasons for the local regional development office's closure, says the Opposition.

"The decision to close the Goulburn small business office was clearly all about cutting costs, and had nothing to do with the Small Business Commissioner's recommendations," Opposition small business spokesman Adam Searle said.

"Pru Goward has misled her local community and needs to apologise to the people of Goulburn and the Small Business Commissioner."

He and shadow spokesman for regional infrastructure services, Mick Veitch have accused Ms Goward of "hiding behind the Commissioner and a falsehood."

The Commissioner, Yasmin King, told a budget estimates hearing on October 8 that a review, which she and her department wrote for Small Business Minister Katrina Hodgkinson, did

not recommend closure of any offices.

Mr Searle had cited the *Goulburn Post's* March 16 article in which Ms Goward had stated:

"I'm very disappointed for the four people employed at the local (Trade and Investment) office because they do a great job.

"But this is the recommendation of the NSW Small Business Commissioner. She wants to do it this way and we will be monitoring it very closely. If it falls off the perch we need to come back and say it's not working and look for

other options."

Ms Goward said Ms King's report had concluded five offices, including Goulburn, were "ineffective."

Under questioning from Mr Searle, Ms King said she had written to Ms Goward rejecting the claim but had not received a response.

She told the hearing the report only recommended restructuring of programs.

Mr Searle said the Goulburn office's closure was "short sighted and damaging" and had now been

shown to lack factual foundation.

"Ms Goward should front up and explain her comments because frankly, both statements can't be right," he said.

The May 1 Industry and Investment office closure left four people out of work. Goulburn's regional development needs are now serviced by a single person based in Wollongong and the newly implemented Small Biz Connect program.

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