

# NO HALF-BAKED EFFORT HERE

OLIVIA REED

FANCY yourself as a home baker turned talented chef?

Dust off your apron and channel your inner *MasterChef* for this year's Central Geelong Bake Off. The hunt is on for Geelong's best home baker as part of Tastes of Central Geelong — a festival of food, flavours and fun from July 5-28.

Enter your best-baked dish into the Bake Off for the chance to be crowned Central Geelong's Bake Off champion by celebrity chef Karen Martini.

Martini has appeared on *Better Homes and Gardens* and *My Kitchen Rules*, showing off her culinary prowess to the nation.

Judging of cakes and slices is on July 8, biscuits and cupcakes on July 9, and desserts on July 10 at Westfield Geelong.

The judging panel will select a winner from each category from 1pm and each category winner will receive two tickets to An Afternoon with Karen Martini on July 20 at The Pier and the season degustation dinner for two at the Davidson Restaurant.

Winners will need to bake their winning item again for the final on July 20. This item will then be judged by Martini at the Afternoon with Karen Martini event and the overall winner will take home an \$800 KitchenAid mixer.

For the bake off rules and to register, visit [centralgeelong.com.au/tastes](http://centralgeelong.com.au/tastes)



**TASTE OF HEAVEN:** The hunt is on for Geelong's best home baker in the 2019 Central Geelong Bake Off. Pictured are Gordon Cookery Cert 3 student Jeanne Vandekatsey and judge Leonie Mills from The Gordon.

Picture: GLENN FERGUSON

## Application for doggie daycare

A BOUTIQUE Yarraville doggie day care will open a luxury centre in South Geelong if a planning application is approved.

Urban Paws doggie day care has lodged an application to set up a 50-dog minding service in Dowsett St.

Urban Paws currently has one centre in Yarraville.

It's proposed the South Geelong centre would provide "daytime only" care for up to 50 dogs with no canines kept on the premises overnight.

If approved, the centre would also offer grooming and pet education classes on weekends. It's expected the centre would be staffed with a ratio of one employee to every 10 dogs.

Proposed opening hours are from 7am-7pm from Monday to Friday and 8am-1pm on Saturday and Sunday.

A decision on the application will not be made until after July 10.

# RULE HINDERS MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR KIDS

TAMARA McDONALD

A RULE preventing psychologists and parents being able to discuss young patients in subsidised sessions is impacting access to care, a peak body has revealed.

Psychologists cannot bill Medicare for consultations with parents where the child patient is absent.

Australian Psychological Society College of Clinical Psychologists national chair Dr Brendan Meagher, a Newcomb-based clinical psychologist, said Geelong kids battling mental illness could face extremely lengthy waitlists. The Medicare rule made it "very hard" to identify psy-

chologists who operated under the structure, he said.

Dr Meagher said psychologists had few referral options due to the situation, and where referral options were available the waiting time was often months.

He said being able to have the subsidised sessions alone with parents would enable best practice.

"It can be about getting additional information from the parents, or it could be about providing strategies directly to the parents, which is best done without the child present," Dr Meagher said.

A federal health department spokesman said as the child was the patient under the

Better Access program, they were required to be present for the consultation to be a clinically relevant service under Medicare.

"This does not preclude the psychologist from seeing parents without the child present, they can," the spokesman said.

"However the psychologist cannot bill Medicare under Better Access for this consultation."

Under Better Access, patients can access up to 10 subsidised sessions with a psychologist per calendar year.

The spokesman said the Medicare Benefits Schedule Review Taskforce established a Mental Health Reference Group in June last year to

review the current suite of MBS items delivered under Better Access.

In its draft report, the reference group recommended an amendment to allow therapy sessions with family members where the patient was not present.

"In many situations, a fundamental element of evidence-based best practice in the delivery of psychological therapies is the provision of sessions for carers," the report said.

"These sessions are not currently eligible for a Medicare rebate if the 'identified patient' is not physically present."

The department spokes-

man said the MHRG draft report was released for consultation in February, and closed earlier this month.

"It is expected that the taskforce will consider feedback in coming months and will finalise their recommendations to government later in 2019," he said.

Dr Meagher said psychologists had highly effective, non-medication based treatments to resolve a range of mental health issues in young people such as depression, anxiety and problematic eating issues.

"We need the funding and the government support to be able to provide those services where and when they are needed," Dr Meagher said.

## Give Where You Live Foundation's End of Financial Year Appeal 2019

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