

2. Adjust your current loan details

Loan amount

\$ 450,000

Term remaining

30 years

Payments

\$ 2,222

Frequency

per month ▼

Type

Owner Occupier ▼

0:08 / 0:15

AUSPOL: Far Right Senator Claims Racial Discrimination Act Leaves People Afraid to Call Out Muslim Criminals March 28

QLD News

Corridors of Power: Queensland news, politics, courts

The Courier-Mail

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AS IT turns out, not all news is fit to print ... but these insiders will whisper if you lean in close.

We've brought together our top insiders to bring you a concentrated dose of the week's unusual happenings and gossip.

Federal politics**WHERE'S THE POPCORN?**



📷 Senator Sam Dastyari loves a bit of drama. Picture: Gary Ramage

MOVIE tickets keep getting more expensive, but Labor Senator Sam Dastyari seems to have found a cheaper alternative.

Queensland One Nation Senator Malcolm Roberts was giving a passionate speech in the Senate chambers regarding proposed changes to section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act, with his comments including references to Nazis, the Soviets, the UN, Eleanor Roosevelt and radical Muslim groups.

It was during the oration that Senator Dastyari rose to seek a point of clarification from the President of the Senate.

“What are the rules around us being able to bring popcorn into the chamber when Senator Roberts...,” he managed to say before being ordered to sit back down.

It might be cheaper than movie tickets, but they’d still probably charge too much for the popcorn.

– *Matthew Killoran*

BIGGER THAN TEXAS



📷 The unveiling of a new portrait of former Speaker Peter Slipper, painted by artist Paul Newton, in Parliament House, Canberra. Picture: Gary Ramage

FORMER Speaker Peter Slipper, who had a tumultuous and controversial time in the role and after it, returned to Canberra for the unveiling of his official portrait in Parliament this week.

Mr Slipper recounted his mother, who is in her 90s, asked him that morning if he thought the newspaper might be in attendance at the event.

Looking out at the four television crews, and dozens of journalists from across the nation, as well as the gathered officials and politicians, he said: “I told her that there was a possibility there might be some media interest”.

Or as his friend and Victorian MP Michael Danby said, “this is bigger than Texas”.

– *Matthew Killoran*

COMMUNITY CENTRES FIGHT BACK



📷 Lawyer Lindsay Nicholson at South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre, which is threatened by proposed government cuts. Picture: Patria Jannides

IT'S a modern twist on the singing for your supper tale, with representatives of cash-strapped Queensland community legal centres making their way to Canberra this week to get in the ear of politicians.

Facing a loss of \$6 million over the next three years if current Federal Budget measures are implemented, the campaign to reverse the cuts gained momentum with support from backbenchers and minor parties.

Community Legal Centres Queensland director James Farrell yesterday reported back that he had so far met with Queensland MPs George Christensen, Terri Butler, Graham Perrett, Milton Dick, Michelle Landry and Warren Entsch and staff from One Nation Senator Malcolm Robert's office.

Mr Farrell said progress was slow but the message about just how much community legal centres do across a range of big issue areas like family violence seemed to be getting through.

"It's not too late," he said. "The budget planning is now with senior members of the government and we've been told the issue of CLC finding was raised in the party room by four members this week so I think they are really taking notice of the community concern.

"We've now had churches, unions, deans of law schools from across the country and prominent people like Rosie Batty advocate on the issue with 13,000 people signing her open letter to the government in the last 10 days."

In the meantime, Queensland Attorney-General Yvette D'Ath this week announced a pool of about \$51 million for community legal centres over the next three years, 60 per cent of that from state coffers and based on the Federal Government not reversing the decision to cut funds.

For the first time since its inception, the LGBTI Legal Service will receive funding to help implement the state government's reforms for the LGBTI community including supporting people applying to have historical convictions quashed.

The Women's Legal Service will receive an extra \$100,000 to run its helpline and two Queensland Environmental Defenders Offices have had funding restored to the tune of \$600,000.

– *Emmaline Stigwood*

Law and courts

COP LEFT WITHOUT PAY



📷 Fabio Mazza has lost a court battle to have his pay reinstated.

A QUEENSLAND police officer who was suspended without pay after he was convicted of [dangerous driving causing the death of a grandmother](#), has lost a court battle to have his pay reinstated.

Constable Fabio Armando Mazza took action in the Supreme Court against QPS assistant commissioner Clem O'Regan after the Assistant Commissioner of Ethical Standards

suspended Mazza without salary and allowances on December 12 last year.

Assistant Commissioner O'Regan told him it was necessary to “protect the reputation of” and “maintain community confidence” in the QPS.

In the Supreme Court on Tuesday Justice David Boddice dismissed Mazza's appeal with costs.

Mazza was last year convicted of dangerous driving after he did a U-turn in front of a motorbike on a country road near Roma in 2014.

Riding the motorbike were grandmother Gail Mairee Smith – who was killed – and her husband Steven Michael Smith, who was seriously injured after their brakes locked and the bike skidded and crashed.

Mazza was sentenced to a suspended two-year prison sentence and disqualified from driving for six months.

He has been doing administrative duties in between a lengthy stress leave since he was stood down from duty in April 2015.

In a separate case Mazza has lodged an appeal of his conviction arguing a juror did internet searches during his trial which were a “miscarriage of justice”.

He is back in court on April 3 for his appeal.

– *Vanda Carson*

NEW LOOK FOR LAW SCHOOL



📷 University of Queensland's TC Beirne School of Law Dean Sarah Derrington says the refurbishment compliments the building's original features.

THE heavy hitters of the legal world were out in force to celebrate the \$35 million refurbishment of the University of Queensland's TC Beirne School of Law in the iconic sandstone Forgan Smith building earlier this month.

High Court of Australia Chief Justice Susan Kiefel was among the 200 guests on the secret VIP list – so secret CoP wasn't allowed to see it – for the official dinner to mark the opening of the building.

And if any past alumni of the law school are hit with a sense of déjà vu when looking the pictures of the improved building, you'd be right with a fair amount of silky oak from the old building lovingly upcycled in the new digs.

Head of School and Dean of Law Professor Sarah Derrington said she was astounded at the finished product which reflected contemporary teaching practices and the fact that the legal workplace was much more collaborative than in the past.

"We decided the total law school facility needed to be refurbished since it was originally built in the 1930s," she said.

"All the colours have been chosen on the original Terrazzo features. All of the carpet and flooring choices all reflect the original heritage colours. Where we've been able to, we've re-used all the silky oak."

The grandson of Forgan Smith, William Smith, was also given a sneak peek of the refurbishment.

The cost of the renovation was met by a combination of UQ capital works funding and philanthropic donations, but for those lawyers keen to contribute there are still naming rights available for spaces within the building.

– *Chris Honnery*