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Australians 'devastated' by domestic violence attack: prime minister

A former National Rugby League football player allegedly doused his family with gas before setting the car alight.



Korri Loader, a friend of the victims of a car fire, sits at a makeshift memorial for a woman and her three young children who died after their car was set on fire in Brisbane on Wednesday morning. (Dan Peled/AAP Image via AP)

By **Associated Press**

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including three children after a car fire in apparent domestic violence.

Hannah Baxter, 31, and her children Aaliyah, 6, Lainah, 4, and Trey, 3, died after their car was set alight on a street in suburban Brisbane on Wednesday morning.

Baxter's estranged husband and the children's father, Rowan Baxter, allegedly doused his family with gas before setting the car alight.

The 42-year-old, a former player with the New Zealand Warriors in Australia's National Rugby League football competition, was found dead near the scene, reportedly after stabbing himself.

"Australians all over the country are just shocked, saddened and devastated about what has happened in a suburban street ... where Hannah and her three children were so senselessly and maddeningly murdered in what has occurred in a terrible act of violence," Morrison told reporters.

Angela Lynch, CEO of the Women's Legal Service in Queensland state, of which Brisbane is the capital, called for an overhaul of Australia's family court system.

"Domestic violence services are under pressure everywhere," she told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Tampa Bay Times

She said that women were seeking assistance more than ever and "we should have the systems there, appropriate systems to be able to respond to them."

Carolyn Robinson, from the Beyond DV (domestic violence) sector, said the domestic welfare sector had been shocked. "Everyone's shocked, I mean in the DV sector, we all support each other," Robinson told reporters.

"I did speak with several people yesterday, we've seen this before. It has been predicted. I hope it never happens again."



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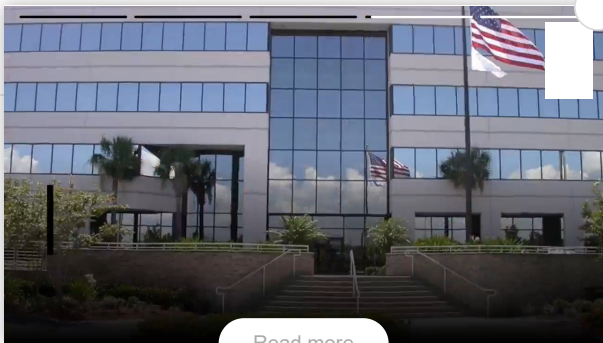
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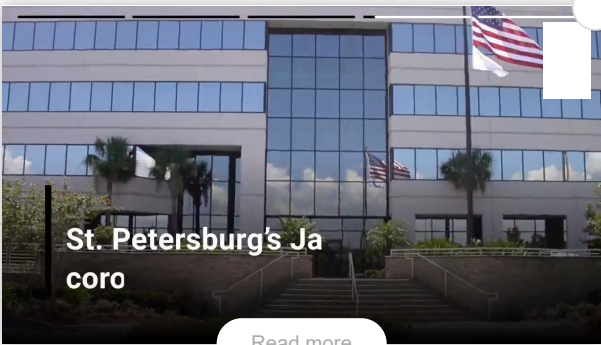
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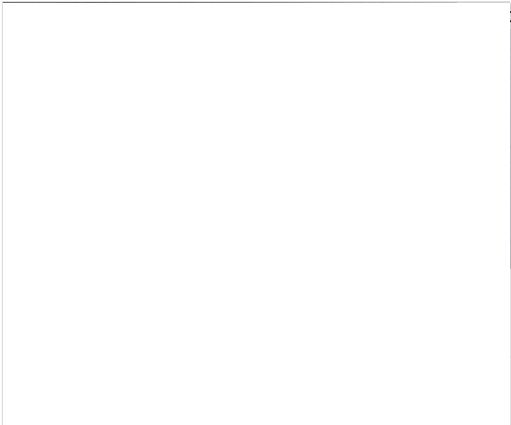


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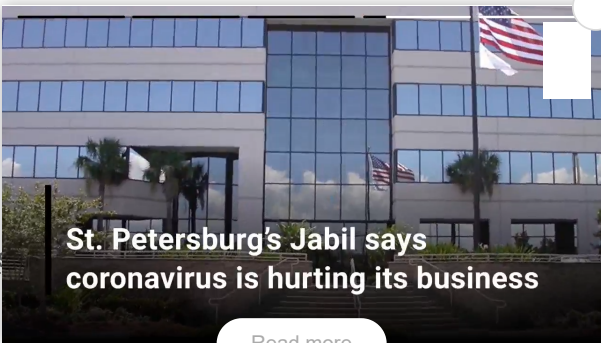
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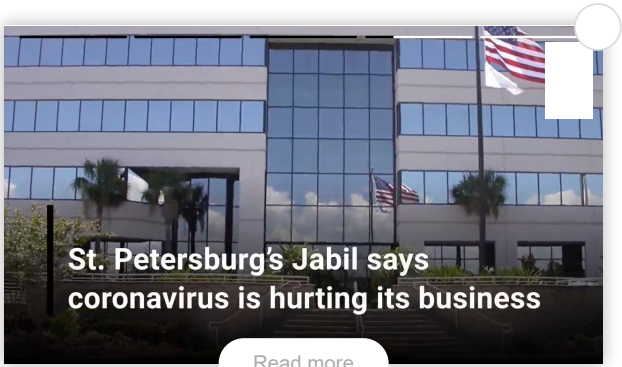
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