

HIT-RUN FAMILY'S GRIEF

Zayne did not deserve to die like this

SEAN FEWSTER
CHIEF COURT REPORTER

THE mother of a toddler killed by a convicted paedophile in a hit-run crash says her ongoing grief is so all-consuming that it feels "like dying, but they've forgotten to bury me".

The District Court yesterday heard a victim impact statement written by Chantelle Young, mother of Zayne Colison. Zayne died outside his home when he was run over by Michael Craig Bullock, who did not stop after the impact.

Ms Young said she and Zayne's six siblings remained distraught over his loss and wondered, every day, what life would be like had Bullock stopped his car.

"Grief would have to be the worst feeling ever, it's like dying but they have forgotten to bury me," she said.

"I was disgusted (Bullock) could do this to my family (and) still plead not guilty ... he has shown no remorse or sympathy for his actions."

"Zayne did not deserve to die like this ... Bullock, my family feels that if you stopped like you should have, Zayne could possibly still be here today."

Bullock, 54, was found guilty by a jury of one aggravated count of driving without due care and one count of leaving an accident scene.

The charges arose from his driving conduct at Dover Gardens in February 2017, which caused the death of Zayne, 2.

The little boy was playing outside his home, with his sis-

ters, when he was hit, dragged beneath Bullock's car for several metres and left lying on the road.

Bullock drove 100m to his house, where his wife contacted emergency services and he told the operator "I didn't stop, it wasn't safe".

He claimed, at trial, he had swerved to miss another child and thought he had hit a ball at the time of the incident - jurors rejected his account.

Bullock has past convictions for child sex offending, sexual assault upon a teenager and possession of child pornography.

In her statement, Ms Young said Zayne was a beloved, energetic and cheeky child who adored cars, scooters and Thomas the Tank Engine.

She said his death had left her and his siblings struggling with post-traumatic stress and anxiety, paranoia and continuing health issues.

"Our hearts feel like they have broken into a million pieces," she said.

"Some days, it's like living two lives ... we put on a brave face but, deep down inside, we're broken."

"We're angry ... while Bullock has spent the past two years at home with his family, still getting to speak to his loved ones, we are left with a death sentence and nothing



GRIEF: Tania Kearney, the great-aunt of toddler Zayne Colison, left, leaves court yesterday.

but our memories of Zayne," Angus Redford, said his client's appeal against his conviction would be heard tomorrow.

He said Bullock maintained he did not stop at the scene because he was heading home to call the police.

"There is not a 'complete absence of contrition' in this matter," he said.

"There's a denial of the elements of the offence, and that's maintained, but there's never been a suggestion that he doesn't wish that these events didn't happen.

"He doesn't wish that the

tragic consequences did not occur."

Mr Redford read to the court a letter of apology written by Bullock.

"I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to Zayne's family for all the pain and suffering I've caused and for any evidence they may have found distressing," he said.

"It's unimaginable to think what you are going through, every minute of every day ... once again, I'm truly sorry for your loss."

Judge Paul Cuthbertson remanded Bullock in custody for sentencing next month.



FOUND GUILTY: Michael Craig Bullock.

Medical regulator acts to suspend sex GP

ANDREW HOUGH

AN Adelaide GP guilty of sexual misconduct against multiple female patients has been suspended as he awaits punishment, the country's medical regulator has announced.

Convicted sex predator Dr Mario Athinodorou, 52, breached professional medical boundaries with 10 women at the Harbour Medical Services' North Haven surgery over at least 15 years.

The *Sunday Mail* revealed the Health Practitioners Tribunal of South Australia had found the western suburbs GP acted inappropriately between 1997 and 2012.

Yesterday the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency announced the Cyprus-born medico was suspended as the tribunal considers a punishment.



Athinodorou, pictured, a married father of four of Woodville South, had been practising at Munno Para despite facing a maximum \$30,000 fine, suspension or being struck.

"The Medical Board of Australia took immediate action to suspend the registration of Dr Mario Athinodorou," an AHPRA spokesman said.

He said national boards had power to take interim action to restrict a health practitioner's right to practise.

"A national board may take immediate action where it reasonably believes a health practitioner is placing the public at serious risk or it is otherwise in the public interest to do so," he said. "The restriction on a health practitioner's ability to practise can include suspension of registration, imposition of conditions or accepting an undertaking."

During tribunal hearings over the past 14 months, the four-member tribunal panel heard graphic evidence about his sexual behaviour.

This included kissing, hugging and groping women, asking them to undress and undertaking intimate medical examinations without a chaperone being offered or present.

The GP denied the claims.

Motorist cops full strap of the law

A SOUTH Australian man's "deadly" seatbelt modification has shocked police after he was caught speeding in the South-East.

A Murray Bridge highway police patrol stopped a ute on the Ngarkat Highway, between Pinnaroo and Keith, after it was clocked almost

20km/h over the speed limit about 12.40pm on Saturday.

The officer saw the driver was not wearing his seatbelt and then realised the safety strap had been altered so it could be hidden behind the plastic shroud.

The seatbelt buckle was permanently placed in the

latch so the beeping alert would not activate.

The driver, a 23-year-old from the South-East, was given an expiation notice for speeding and failing to wear a seatbelt. The company who owns the car was also issued with an expiation notice and the vehicle was detected.

Slain man's body returned to family

THE body of murdered young Australian Sean McKinnon has been returned to his family in New Zealand following a post-mortem.

Waikato Crime Manager Detective Inspector Graham Pitkeathley said Mr McKinnon's sisters, brother and his fiancée Bianca Buckley will re-

main in New Zealand "for the time being" and are being looked after by Victim Support teams.

Ms Buckley had a miraculous escape after she and Mr McKinnon were attacked while sleeping in their rented camper van in a car park at the remote Te Toro Gorge in the

early hours of last Friday morning. A man, 23, allegedly smashed the window of the van with the butt of a gun and then shot Mr McKinnon twice.

He then allegedly pushed Ms Buckley out of the van allowing her to take some clothes and telling her he would not kill her.