



MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday June 7 2006

LANDOWNERS WARNED ON STRAY ANIMALS

The lawyer for a Ballan woman who suffered catastrophic injuries after an airborne horse landed on her car says the case serves as a warning to landowners.

The High Court of Australia last week rejected the final appeal by the landowner of the property where the horse had been agisted.

Lawyer Cath Evans from Slater & Gordon says Sherilee Meech can finally get on with her life after years of uncertainty following the accident on February 15 1999, 10 days before she was due to leave on an overseas holiday with her boyfriend.

Ms Meech was a nurse working three jobs to save for the trip when a horse wandered from St Anne's Vineyard at Myrniong and was struck by a car which threw it into the air, landing on Ms Meech's car, which was crushed.

Ms Meech – who was in a coma for 13 days – continues to suffer from a brain injury, and impaired vision and hearing.

She will now receive \$900,000 awarded by the jury in a County Court trial two years ago. This include \$382,950 for pain and suffering – the maximum then allowable – and the rest for lost wages.

Lawyer Cath Evans from Slater & Gordon says no amount of money will make up for Ms Meech's ongoing injuries and lost opportunities.

"Sherilee's quality of life is now changed for all time," Ms Evans said.

"This case is a warning to landowners to ensure they have adequate fencing, especially if they have horses and cows and live near such busy roads."