



Keitel takes it easy before the filming starts

EXCLUSIVE
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HOLLYWOOD heavy-hitter Harvey Keitel snuck into the Gold Coast this week to film a new production. Keitel has been spotted dining in Surfers Paradise, where he is also staying, and until now has managed to stay under the radar.

The actor, best known for his work in Martin Scorsese's *Mean Streets* and *Taxi Driver*, will be joined *Down Under* by Colin Firth

and Nicole Kidman in June to work on *The Railway Man*.

Keitel is here to work on *Fatal Honeymoon*, a feature film based on the death of Alabama woman Tina Watson on her Great Barrier Reef diving trip in 2003. Keitel will play the father of Tina Watson's character in the production being shot for US cable channel Lifetime.

Sources say the actor has been staying at Hilton Surfers Paradise. Keitel has been seen dining at Luke Mangan's Salt Grill two nights in a row with his family.

Brisbane actor Gyton Grantley revealed last week he would play the best friend of the character based on Gabe Watson.

Meanwhile paid extras work for *The Railway Man* has been advertised on Gumtree this week.

The movie needs thin Caucasian men to play prisoners of war and Japanese-Korean men to play soldiers. The job pays \$20-\$25 an hour, with V Management's Brisbane office saying it would offer six weeks work and a chance to meet Kidman and Firth.

Botched overseas surgeries cost us

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BOTCHED cosmetic surgery performed on the cheap overseas is costing taxpayers millions of dollars a year due to an expensive government loophole.

A *Bulletin* investigation has found hundreds of cosmetic tourists are returning home for publicly funded surgery because of infections, scarring and failed breast implants.

The loophole is also forcing seriously ill patients to be bumped down public hospital waiting lists.

Equally alarming is the fact that Medicare cannot even say how much it is costing us.

While medical services performed solely for cosmetic reasons are not covered by the public health system, plastic surgeons are dismayed at the increasing number of cosmetic tour-

ists charging the cost of revisions to the public purse.

Dentists are also grappling with a surge in "dental tourists" requiring corrective treatment, although they do not have the safety net of Medicare.

The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons said the cosmetic surgery loophole was costing taxpayers millions of dollars, with a recent member survey revealing 31 per cent of cosmetic tourism revisions during the past 12 months were performed in public hospitals.

"Medicare simply doesn't record how often this is happening," said ASPS Queensland secretary-elect, Dr Paul Belt.

"If you submit a claim for an operation for an infected wound, Medicare can't tell if it was the result of cosmetic surgery or an abscess.

"It's impossible for them to police

and work out the numbers. Not a week goes by where the public hospital I work at doesn't see a (cosmetic tourism) patient admitted under Medicare at phenomenal cost ... it's costing Medicare millions of dollars every year."

A Department of Human Services spokesman said Medicare did not record if medical claims were related to previous cosmetic procedures. It also could not measure how much money was being claimed on cosmetic tourism repair jobs.

A 1999 NSW inquiry into cosmetic surgery found complications from breast implants cost Medicare \$1.5 million a year, while *Four Corners* reported 21,419 breast implants were removed on Medicare between 1994 and 2005.

Veteran Southport plastic surgeon Ian McDougall said those numbers had risen dramatically. "Not only

has the industry boomed but the cost of surgery has also increased," he said.

Australian Dental Association executive Dr Peter Alldritt said the rising number of "dental tourists" needing repair work usually had to bear the cost themselves.

"Medicare doesn't cover dentistry ... and even their private health insurer may not want to help them out," he said.

Dr Belt said cosmetic tourists also affected seriously ill people.

"I'm aware of more than one case where we've had to cancel someone's elective surgery for a case arising from cosmetic surgery performed overseas," he said.

"Every time that happens it just adds to the burden of a system finding it hard to cope."

Booby trap P40

KFC told to pay girl \$8m costs

KFC has been ordered to pay \$8 million damages after a judge found a Sydney girl was left severely brain damaged from eating a Twister chicken wrap.

Justice Stephen Rothman found a Twister bought by the girl's father on October 24, 2005, was the source of the salmonella poisoning of Monika Samaan (pictured), now 14.

Yesterday he ordered the fast food giant to pay \$8 million damages and legal costs.

KFC has indicated it will appeal against the finding.

KFC had disputed the evidence of Monika's father, Amanwial.

But Judge Rothman said: "It is not controversial that as a result of being infected with salmonella bacteria, Monika suffered organ system failures and injuries, septic shock, severe brain injury and spastic quadriplegia."

Her disabilities include severe cognitive, motor and communication impairments and incontinence.

"She is now intellectually disabled, is unable to function independently, she needs total care and she will be unable to live a life filled with normal activities, relationships, milestones and achievements."

Monika, her parents and brother were all admitted to hospital with poisoning after sharing the Twister.



Bieber just Tiger mad

LONDON: Justin Bieber is so obsessed with Tiger Woods that he is booking secret trips to a golf simulator while in London.

The teenage singer - who has an impressive handicap of eight - became fixated on the player after twiddling on his PGA Tour game into the early hours. Bieber also is a good pal of Bubba Watson, who won his first US Masters this month.

A source said: "Justin is mad on golf and has a brilliant swing. It focuses his mind and is relaxing."

Geoffrey's fake profile all a fantasy

FLAMBOYANT doctor Geoffrey Edelsten (pictured) has been the victim of an online dating scam, with his photo being used on a fake profile on an international match-making site.

The profile was posted on sugardaddyforme.com, an online dating service that helps people of different ages find love matches.

Edelsten's picture was attached to a profile purporting to be of a



would be "a fantasy".

Edelsten, who detailed his enthusiasm for online dating in his autobiography *Enigma* said he was

divorced man from Melbourne with a \$1 million-plus income.

He promised his potential love match that their relationship

not active on any dating sites and the profile was not his.

It is the latest chapter in a dramatic few months for Edelsten who had police called to the inner city apartment he shares with his wife Brynne in March.

He has also asked his ex-wife Leanne, who this week admitted to an eight-year affair with UK-based author Clive James, to stop using his surname.