



# ROBYN RILEY

## Jolie poor show, guys

**ACTOR** Angelina Jolie (right, with partner Brad Pitt) has made a mockery of her role as a United Nations goodwill ambassador by flaunting her wealth while on a trip to Africa.

In the humble African country of Namibia with Brad Pitt and her two children while awaiting the birth of their baby, Jolie has behaved foolishly.

The Hollywood couple are said to be living in luxury after forking out around \$500,000 for a six-week stay.

Angry residents say the pair turned up with a posse of 20 beefy security guards — four of whom are alleged to have been members of a counter-insurgency unit from the apartheid era.

The South African *Sunday Times* reported the bullies even chased local school children off a public beach and roped off a popular pier to maintain the privacy of the precious pair.

While Jolie, 30, may have the best of intentions about wanting her baby to be born in Africa, she should have had more sense.

It is fair criticism that the money spent on making her comfortable for a couple of weeks could have paid for the building of several much-needed schools in the area.

By being too showy, by being too Hollywood, Jolie risks being labelled condescending and meaningless rather than a genuine earth mother whose efforts to highlight poverty in Third World countries are heartfelt.



**'The money spent on making Angelina comfortable ... could have paid for the building of several much-needed schools in the area'**

## Memo to Mr Abbott:

# The ball's in your court now

**N**OW that the Therapeutic Goods Administration has recommended the breast cancer drug Herceptin be made more widely available, we can only hope Health Minister Tony Abbott is listening.

The ball is now in his court and the federal health minister must recommend to the Government that it subsidise this potentially life-saving drug for women with early stages of HER-2 positive breast cancer.

You have no choice, Mr Abbott, it is time to act.

If you are not listening to the women begging you for the drug, if you are not listening to Australians telling you they support their cause, hear what the TGA has to say.

And don't delay. Every day you dillydally you are causing more stress and heartache to women who have more than enough to contend with.

You must know it is not right that those battling breast cancer should also be forced to scrape together the money to buy a drug that may help them.

Were you not moved by the efforts of Melbourne mum Maree Bissels, who not only had to try to raise \$84,000 for a year's supply of Herceptin, but also organised a petition that attracted 10,000



**Desperate bid:** Breast cancer patient Leanne Bradshaw with son Riley.

signatures of support to help other women in the same sad predicament?

Last October I wrote that it was obscene that at the same time the state and federal governments were bragging about a multi-million-dollar budget surplus, a young mother was facing a death sentence because of budget restraints.

The *Sunday Herald Sun* has campaigned for Herceptin to be made more widely available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

This followed the story of a young mum, Leanne Bradshaw, 28, who went public in desperation.

She has aggressive breast cancer and has been told she has a better fighting chance if allowed Herceptin.

Once again I ask why can't she have it, Mr Abbott?

Why can't the estimated 3250 women who this year will be diagnosed with aggressive HER-2 positive breast cancer also be given a fighting chance?

In October, the Australian Cancer Council called for Herceptin to be listed on the PBS as soon as possible after a study showed it reduced tumours recurring by 46 per cent in women in the early stages of breast cancer.

You said then: "We're always prepared to listen to someone who wants to make an intelligent case to us."

Yet six months later these women are still waiting and that is cruel.

Jennifer Bromley, 35, can't afford to wait much longer.

The Wangaratta mum has been told she must have Herceptin before December to survive.

This should not be about politics or money, it should be about doing the decent thing.

So come on, Mr Abbott, have a heart.

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## EVOLUTION OF A DISEASE

**WHEN I was diagnosed with endometriosis more than a decade ago, most of my family and friends had never heard of the disease. Back then the most common response was, "endo what?"**

**Remarkable, when you consider one in 10 Australian women suffer this debilitating illness that can cause painful periods and infertility.**

**Thankfully, things have changed.**

**Next Wednesday night there is a free public seminar at the Dallas Brooke Centre in Melbourne. If you have endometriosis — or live with someone who does — make a booking on 9483 3499 to find out more.**

## Right to judge that children will suffer



Justice Kirby

**HIGH** Court judge Michael Kirby was spot-on in his comments about a case before the Full Bench.

Melbourne man Liam Magill has taken his case to the Full Bench alleging he was tricked into paying thousands of dollars to his former wife to support two children who were not his own.

Justice Kirby said the looming battle that could allow men to sue their wives for the cost of raising children not biologically theirs was opening a "Pandora's box".

"... Every case where the male, hurt and having to pay child support, is unhappy about it, they are going to sue and claim minutes of time they spent with the child who turns out not to be their genetic child," he said.

Justice Kirby said the law of deceit could be used vindictively by emotionally wounded couples.

This is a valid point — the children will be hurt most.

If the High Court rules in favour of Mr Magill, it is expected to open the door for other compensation claims by cuckolded men who, perhaps, are thinking more about their pride and hip pocket rather than what is best for a child they may have loved and nurtured.

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