

## Big banks reviewing more fees

BANK customers could soon have fees reduced across a wide range of banking products in the wake of the decision by NAB to eliminate the overdrawn account fee on personal accounts.

One banking industry insider said other major banks were looking at "holistic" approaches to reducing fees as consumer dissatisfaction grows with penalties and fees, which fattened banks bottom line by almost \$1.2 billion in 2008.

"I think you can expect to see the major banks reduce fees across a very broad range of products, not just deposit and personal transaction accounts," the insider, who declined to be identified said.

Following the NAB decision to eliminate its \$30 fee, other major banks confirmed they had their fee structures under review. Some said they had been under review for some time.

## Swine flu death toll up by four

FOUR more people with swine flu have died in NSW, bringing the state's toll to 21, health authorities said yesterday.

NSW chief health officer Kerry Chant confirmed the new deaths and said all four people — two men and two women aged between 57 and 71 — had underlying medical conditions.

Dr Chant said they had been at greater risk of developing severe illness from the H1N1 2009 influenza due to their illnesses.

Meanwhile, getting a flu shot could soon be a thing of the past, with an Australian scientist developing an oral vaccination.

Nobel prize winning scientist Barry Marshall has begun trials on using live bacteria found in stomachs to deliver vaccines.

"There would be no needles, you could take it in a capsule or in a liquid form," he said yesterday.

"It would go straight to the stomach and immune system."

## Pay phone threats at the airport

A MAN allegedly called in several threats on pay phones around Sydney Airport yesterday, sparking a major security scare.

The man allegedly made five calls to police from different pay phones across the domestic and international terminals from about 12.35pm to 2.30pm.

An Australian Federal Police spokeswoman said the calls "threatened general aviation safety". AFP and NSW Police officers swarmed the airport but decided that evacuating terminals was not necessary.

They cordoned off five public telephone booths at the airport for forensic examination and arrested a 47-year-old Sylvania man a short time later. He was charged with five counts of conveying false information that a person or property was in danger and was bailed to Waverley Local Court on August 26.

# Vile & Tacky O

## Calls to kick out shock jocks after 14-year-old girl is subjected to rape ridicule on live radio



Misguided stunt: 2DayFM presenters Jackie O and Kyle Sandilands hit a new low yesterday when they quizzed a child about her sex life

Holly Byrnes and Gemma Jones

SHOCK jock Kyle Sandilands made a mealy-mouthed, half-baked apology last night after a live radio stunt ended with a 14-year-old girl breaking down as she revealed she had been raped when she was just 12.

The segment on the 2Day FM breakfast show left the child — and many of those listening — shaken, disgusted, angry and close to tears.

Sandilands and his sidekick Jackie O had hooked the girl, called Rachael, up to a lie detector as they quizzed her about her sexual experiences.

Within minutes she broke down and confessed she was raped two years ago. Instead of ending the segment immediately, a bumbling Sandilands asked the girl if the assault had been her "only [sexual] experience".

It was only then they pulled the plug on the slot and scrambled to offer the family counselling.

The girl's mother Michelle, who

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questioned her daughter during the segment, apparently knew about the rape.

The controversy is a new low for the radio duo, who have set the bar close to rock bottom. Pressure is building for them to be sacked.

Pleading ignorance, Sandilands defended himself in a blog on News Limited website The Punch last night, claiming he had been caught off guard. "To tell you the truth I was floundering around, signalling to the producers and Jackie, indicating that we had to get it off air," he said.

While not directly apologising for misguidedly going ahead with a segment that quizzed an underage

girl about her sexual experiences, he did write: "I'm sorry for her that it turned out like that."

But he also tempered his apology by suggesting the media was simply using the incident as an excuse to attack him.

He wrote: "I've certainly p...ed off a lot of journos over the years but I'm sad they're using the rape of a 12-year-old girl to have a go at me."

The segment caused wide outrage, with Community Services Minister Linda Burney calling an investigation into the rape claim.

She let fly at the presenters and their Austereo bosses for using the young girl in a "sick joke".

"I think the big issue is this poor kid became an item of ridicule, a bit of fun, and her embarrassment and her relationship with her mother is going to be a big issue for a long time," Ms Burney said.

"These producers and these two individuals and this particular radio station need to have a very hard look at themselves."

Rape Crisis NSW spokeswoman Karen Willis said the girl would be "retraumatised" by the ordeal.

"It's incredibly sad for that little girl to be put in such a position where she was forced to discuss her trauma in such a public and humiliating way," Ms Willis said.

"That she took such a high risk to get heard, by agreeing to be on, indicates she was clearly very traumatised and needs support."

Bottom feeders page 25

» T Hear the appalling segment online dailytelegraph.com.au