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CONCORD

# Here's a wheelie good advertising concept



Polio victim Othmane Hamidi is ready for any mobile billboard slogan offers - within reason, of course. He needs the money to fix his wheelchair.

Picture: PHIL BLATCH

Shireen Khalil

IF you can advertise on buses, cars, walking billboards and in the sky - why not on wheelchairs too? Concord's Othmane Hamidi has been wheelchair-bound for most of his whole life. He stopped working for

Australia Post in 2003 and has recently been looking for financial support to pay off his wheelchair maintenance bills. "I don't want too much money, I don't want to charge people thousands of dollars I just want enough to pay my electricity bills and maintain my

wheelchair," he said. His now registered business has got everyone talking and supporting him. "I want reasonable ads, nothing too crazy... "It's hard to say how successful it will be but I hope it will be good, I've got a lot of good feedback from people so now I just need to

work harder to launch the business." Mr Othmane is willing to do free ads to get his business rolling. Contact him by email on [man@optus.com.au](mailto:man@optus.com.au)

**Do you think Othmane's business idea has merit?** [innerwestcourier.com.au](http://innerwestcourier.com.au)

### QUICK FACTS

- Algerian-born Othmane Hamidi, who migrated to Australia in 1996, caught polio as a child.
- Polio is a viral disease which leads to muscle wastage and can affect victims' ability to walk.

CONCORD

# Cancer research boost

### THE FUNDING

- Almost \$7 million has been announced for two research institutes at Concord hospital.
- The funds are administered by the NSW Cancer Institute.
- They form part of the government's translational cancer research program.
- The research would have a direct impact on cancer outcomes across the state.

### GRANTS WILL HELP FINANCE CLINICAL PRACTICE AT CONCORD

THE inner west will continue to be a national hub for cancer research thanks to almost \$7 million in state government funds. Health Minister Jillian Skinner announced the funding for two research institutes based at Concord hospital last Friday. Asbestos Diseases Re-

search Institute director professor Nico van Zandwijk said the grant was for a translational program, which takes discoveries made in labs and studies to clinical application stage to reduce cancer incidence, morbidity and mortality. "That means research in our lab will translate into

clinical practice," he said. "That includes prevention, diagnosis, drafting guidelines. It even includes palliative care." He said although the institute had received previous grants, the money would fund it's work for the next five years. A further \$3.47 million

was given to a team at the Anzac Research Institute, also based at Concord Hospital, and the University of Sydney for diagnosis and treatment of blood cancers. Mrs Skinner said the grants would allow researchers to work closely with doctors and nurses on the front line of cancer care.

### FATALITY

- Police believe Tre Toman was writing graffiti inside the tunnel with friends when he was hit by a train.
- A short time later four men reported the incident at Glebe police station.
- The train driver and guard were breath tested and returned negative readings.

LEWISHAM



Tre Toman.

# Train kills tagger in tunnel

GRIEVING friends and family were left devastated after a train hit and killed a young graffiti writer in Lewisham last Wednesday. Police were called to Lewisham station about 9.35pm following reports a train driver hit something. They found the body of 18-year-old Tre Toman, of Abbotsford, in the tunnel of the West Street overpass. Marrickville police said his death was not suspicious and that the case was "cut and dry".

The death of Mr Toman, who was also known by his graffiti tag "Ontre", left his friends in a state of shock. "Rest in peace Tre. You were loved by everyone. You are now in a better place," friend Vicki Dimos wrote on a Facebook tribute page to Mr Toman. "Rest in peace big fella. The good die young," Eren Demiroz said. "You put a smile on people's faces and knew how to bring life to the group," Michael Poniris said. Police are preparing a report for the coroner.