

Ruling bid on violent inmate

AMBER WILSON

AN UNHINGED long-time Risdon Prison inmate with a history of vicious assaults against guards, police officers and fellow prisoners – and with a propensity for throwing faeces and urine in their faces – could soon be declared a “high risk offender” under new Tasmanian laws.

The new classification, which was introduced by the Tasmanian government last year, gives the state power to closely monitor a person after their release from prison.

The Crown has previously tried to convince the courts to declare Nathan Michael Green a “dangerous criminal”, which would give the state the power to lock him up in prison for good. The 2017 bid against the 36-year-old, who has spent most of his adult life behind bars over dozens of brutal assaults, failed.

But new legislation has created a “second-tier scheme”, where serious offenders who don’t meet the threshold for being declared a dangerous criminal, but who still pose a risk to the community, can be declared a high risk offender.

It means the person, once released, will be subject to a set of mandatory conditions including reporting and residential conditions and the ability for police to enter their premises and conduct searches.

Courts can also impose

extra conditions like electronic monitoring, curfews, prohibitions on entering certain places or drug and alcohol testing.

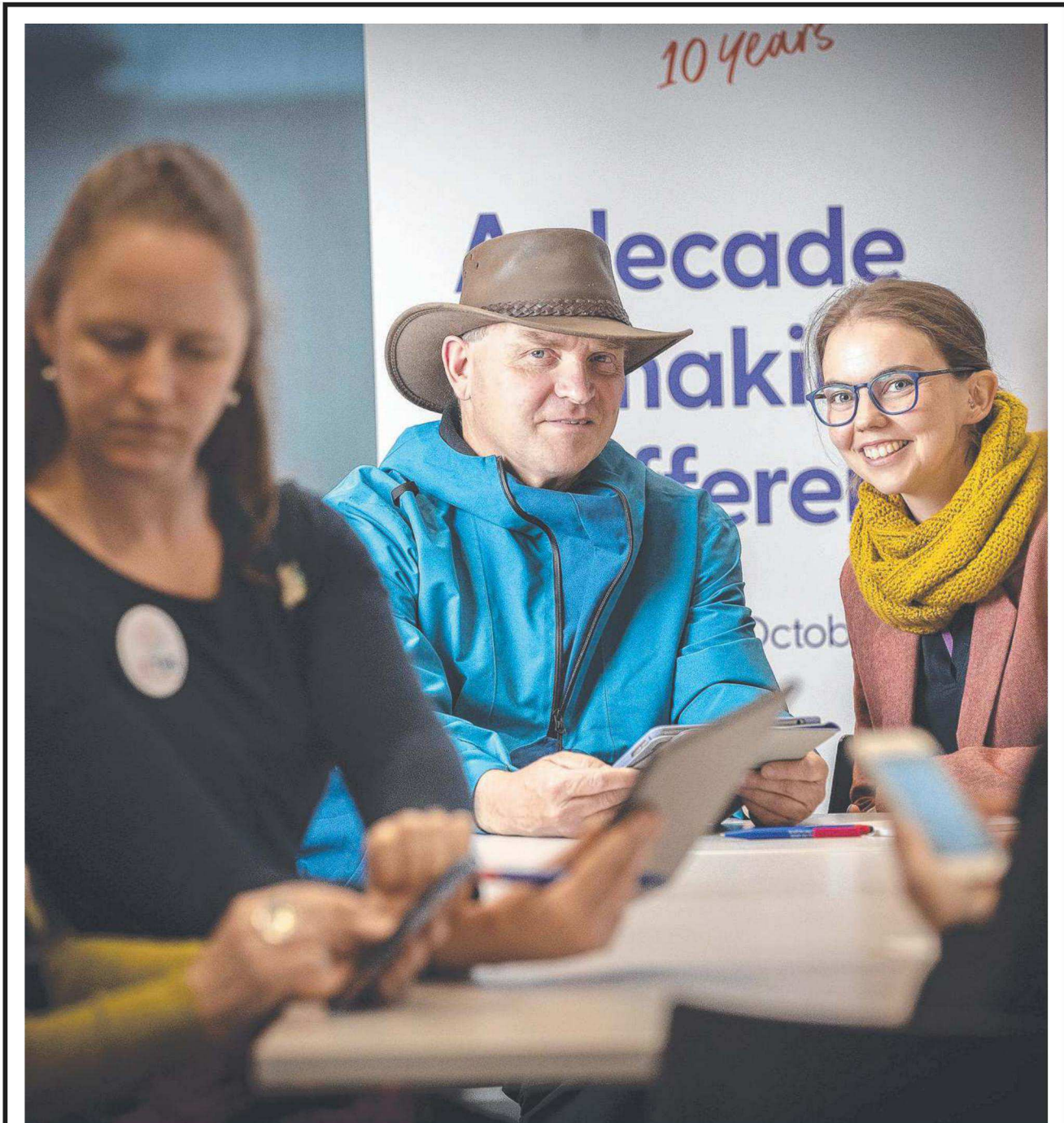
On Monday, the Crown applied for a high risk offender order in the Supreme Court of Tasmania, noting doing so was “urgent” given Green could be released from prison as soon as December. Green, who appeared via video link, will return to court on November 7.

According to the 2017 judgment, in January 2017, Green – furious at having a television removed from his cell – caused \$16,000 worth of damage in a prison common room, smashing items with a baseball bat including the ceiling sprinklers, and didn’t stop until he was restrained by Tactical Response officers.

The same year, he also threw liquid on a female prison guard’s chest and face that she thought was urine, but he said was water. He also threw faeces at four correctional officers through the hatch of his cell.

In October 2015, Green stabbed a guard in the left side of his jaw with a makeshift weapon. The same year, he committed six assaults on prison guards, including beating one with a racket and throwing liquid that smelt like urine in the face of another.

Green has not been found to be mentally ill, but is said to have anti-social personality disorder and is of “borderline” intelligence.



26TEN literacy co-ordinator Kate Boatwright and adult learner Viv Blackwell at Libraries Tasmania. Picture: Chris Kidd

ADULT LITERACY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BREE HALL

BETTER education levels mean a better Tasmania for all, according to 26TEN – an organisation celebrating a decade of making a difference by raising adult literacy and numeracy skills in Tasmania.

Activities, classes, workshops and morning teas will be held across the state this week as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations.

“There are a whole lot of events that are meaningful to

the people involved in 26TEN and their experience over the last 10-years,” said Anita Planchon, director of strategy and engagement at Libraries Tasmania.

“The big central focus is a prize draw. We’ve asked people to submit a photo or video to share the impact 26TEN has had for them at some stage over the last 10 years.”

Ms Planchon said providing a tailored approach to members was a key focus of the organisation.

“Adult lives are complex, there isn’t a one-size-fits-all solution. 26TEN is unique in that it provides different opportunities for people to engage in a way that will benefit them,” she said.

Viv Blackwell is a participant in the program who has attended classes once a week for the past three years and says the program has positively impacted how he feels about learning.

“I think adult education has helped me, it’s given me

more confidence and I feel I can get out there a bit more and face the world a bit better,” Mr Blackwell said.

“I strongly recommend others to do it as well.”

The organisation has an ambitious 10-year strategy to improve awareness about adult literacy and numeracy, ensuring everyone is supported to improve their skills and that everyone communicates clearly. The strategy has recently received a boost with \$7m in government funding.

Labor wants stadium referendum

JUDY AUGUSTINE

THE Tasmanian Labor Party wants the state government to hold a referendum on the proposed \$750m stadium, but the idea has already been shot down.

On Monday, Labor leader Rebecca White said a referendum would give all Tasmanians a chance to have a say.

“We think it’s about time the government asked the community directly whether they support it,” Ms White said.

“There are a number of different way it can occur, we believe it should occur sooner rather than later.”

When parliament returns next week, Labor will take its



push for a referendum to the floor of parliament.

“There’s is an opportunity for the government on Wednesday to vote in support of a motion Labor will put to the parliament, calling on them to support a referendum,” said Ms White said (inset).

There have only been three referendums held in Tasmania

since the early 1900s. “One was to do with trading hours for pubs, another was to do with the dams dispute,” Ms White said.

“It’s not unusual for Tasmanians to be asked their view on something like this.”

Ms White was asked if she had lobbied her federal counterparts to prevent funding being included for a stadium in the budget.

“I note there’s no money in the federal budget for any stadium to be built here at Macquarie Point and the PM has rightly said he’s waiting to see a business case,” Ms White said.

Liberal MP Felix Ellis said the government did not support holding a referendum.

STREAM
YOUR NEWS
LIKE NEVER
BEFORE

FLASH

25+ NEWS CHANNELS, 1 PLACE

