

# NIC WAS THE UNDOING OF HUGH'S FEARS

HOLLY BYRNES

NICOLE Kidman has revealed she had to "beg" Hugh Grant not to quit acting and to join the cast of her hotly-anticipated new TV drama series.

The Oscar winner told The Sunday Mail she kept crossing paths with the Notting Hill and Four Weddings and a Funeral star but had to convince him he had the talent for a serious role in *The Undoing*, after being type cast as the fop-pish leading man in romantic comedies.

Kidman plays a psychologist who discovers her marriage to Grant is not as it seemed in the series set to stream this month on BINGE.

"He always says, 'Oh, I don't like working, I don't want to act'. He's one of those. But then when he works, you watch him and you go, 'You cannot stop, you're too good'," she said.

Kidman said Grant would stun many with his performance in the thriller by David E. Kelley, the man behind *Big Little Lies*.

"He's (Grant) mining places now with his life experience that are really extraordinary. He's very bold and willing to play such a diverse range of characters now."

While Kidman shared the screen for her latest TV project with the British star, she takes the spotlight on her own, on the cover of *marie claire* Australia — on sale October 8.

Sporting her trademark curls, first made famous in *BMX Bandits*, the working mum told the magazine she was relishing "the simple life" back home — with husband Keith and their two daughters, Sunday and Faith.

The family quarantined at their Southern Highlands home in June, before making a new "camp" in Byron Bay, where Kidman is filming *Nine Perfect Strangers*, alongside *Offspring* favourite Asher Keddie and Melissa McCarthy.

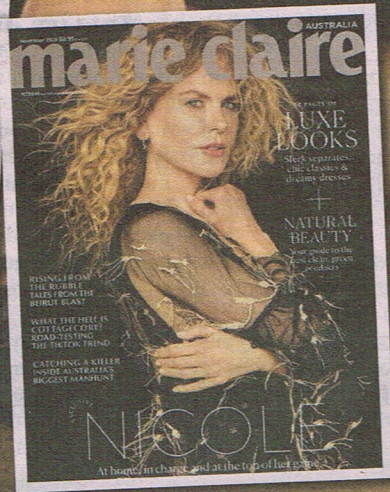
Bringing the production to Australia has been a proud moment for Kidman.

"I've had a lot of sleepless nights, there's been a lot of stress this year, but we're making it work with protocols and limitations. I still can't believe we did it. And to have the opportunity to give jobs to 1400 people... is such a joy for me, personally."

*The Undoing* will stream on BINGE from October 26



Nicole Kidman poses for *marie claire* Australia magazine, in her first shoot for the publication. Picture: Jake Terrey for *marie claire* Australia



# Kids in mental health 'crisis'

JACKIE SINNERTON

CHILDREN younger than 10 are being counselled for anxiety and hopelessness by their local general practitioners as there is a six month wait to see a psychiatric professional.

The Sunday Mail can reveal there are only 50 child and adolescent psychiatrists currently practising throughout Queensland at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has increased demand for services and suicides are predicted to soar.

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists Queensland confirms there is a shortage of mental health professionals and is desperately trying to recruit more into the specialty of child psychiatry.

"I would suspect that there are children and adolescents dying on the waiting list and it is an awful situation for GPs to feel responsible for kids who need help and are impulsive and could commit suicide," the Queensland chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Dr Bruce Gillett said. As new modelling predicts catastrophic levels of youth suicide sparked by COVID-19, Dr Gillett believes some of the Federal Government's \$48.1m cash injection for mental health support in the wake of the pandemic should be allocated to the training of GPs in the psych area.

"Our doctors need to be trained in how to help these struggling kids as prescribing medications is not the way we like to go with young people," he said. While most of the state's facilities have a waiting list some have closed their

## AT A GLANCE

- Suicides will outnumber virus deaths by tenfold
- Suicides in youth will rise 30 per cent
- Teenagers greatest risk of loneliness
- Rising unemployment sparks child abuse/stress
- Rise in anxiety/eating disorders in children
- Double number of kids at GP with anxiety

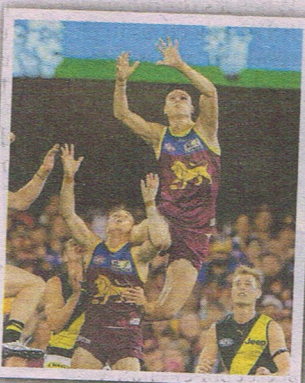
doors to new patients as they are at their limit. The modelling from University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre shows the pandemic will contribute to a 30 per cent spike in teens taking their lives.

Experts have already predicted that the suicide rate in Australia will be 10 times higher than the number of deaths caused by the virus.

The current data shows the impact on children and adolescents. Kids Helpline shows there is a call for help to the Kids Helpline every 69 seconds and since March there has been almost 40 per cent increase in counselling on last year. "In our pre-Budget submission to the Queensland Government, earlier this year, we asked them to commit to a target of 80 per cent of the National Mental Health Framework funding in community mental health services by 2024 at a rate of 5 per cent per year," a RANZCP Queensland spokeswoman said.

KIDS HELPLINE 1800 55 1800  
LIFELINE 13 11 14

## Lions roar as TV viewers join finals ride



LIVE Aussie rules games have proved a success for Queensland, with almost 30 per cent more viewers tuning in to watch the Brisbane Lions make the preliminary final on Friday night (left).

Brisbane is often regarded as an NRL city but 148,946 viewers watched the Lions beat Richmond for the first time in 11 years, while 115,060 watched the Panthers beat the Roosters in a close preliminary final.

With no Queensland teams in the finals for the NRL, the Brisbane Lions have become a shining light for Queensland sport fans. In Sydney 40,382 tuned in to the AFL, while 290,450 watched the NRL and in Melbourne 520,908 watched the AFL and 19,968 watched the NRL.

The Lions host the second preliminary final in two weeks.

WHAT'S DRIVING THE LIONS P86

## MAFS couple welcome new baby



MARRIED At First Sight couple Jules Robinson and Cameron Merchant have announced they are parents.

Oliver Chase Merchant is understood to have been born on Thursday, with the couple sharing their happy news on Instagram (pictured).

"#loveatfirstsight I would do it a thousand times again for you," Robinson wrote under a video of their newborn on Instagram.

The pair were partnered on MAFS two years ago and, unlike many of their reality show co-stars, they have been inseparable since their first TV date.

They married last November and revealed the pregnancy in April. They chose to isolate when social distancing was introduced.

"We're really not wanting to get sick at this special time in our life," Jules said.