UNDER-SIEGE MARATHON WINNER DEVASTATED

I THOUGHT HE WAS OK

EXCLUSIVE
GREG STOLZ

HE SHOULD be basking in the glow of Gold Coast Commonwealth Games gold medal glory.

But marathon champion Michael Shelley is devastated after enduring a torrent of abuse over his controversial win last Sunday which saw him stride past stricken Scot Callum Hawkins after he collapsed on the road.

Shelley has been targeted by online trolls over his “heartless” failure to stop and help Hawkins, who was leading the gruelling race until his sickening collapse less than 2km from the finish line.

Sources close to Shelley say the Gold Coast is so shattered he regards his gold medal as tarnished by his failure to stop and help Hawkins.

Shelley looked to be on the verge of tears yesterday at a thank you party for Games volunteers at Southport, where he was comforted by well-wishers including Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove.

“I saw someone with Callum and my understanding was that he was getting help,” he said. “That’s why I kept on going.” CONTINUED P2

GOVT VOWS TO SORT STADIUMS STOUSH P11

BILLY IT WASN’T A TRY SPORT

IT’S A QLD BOYS’ CLUB

NATASHA BITA REPORTS P4-5
TOUGH GUY DAMON NO MATCH FOR KIDS

KRISTY SYMONDS

He's unbreakable on screen but in real life, Matt Damon's youngest daughter, Stella, has proven she can take the Bourne star down.

The Hollywood actor, 47, was snapped in Byron Bay in a relatable daddy-daughter moment with the seven-year-old on Friday.

Damon, who was also with daughters Isabella, 11, and nine-year-old Gia, strained to lift her during family time in the northern NSW beach spot.

Damon has been holidaying in Australia with his wife, Luciana Barroso, and children since Easter, and has spent time with the Hemsworths as well as travelling in Queensland.

He is also stepfather to Barroso's daughter Alexia, 19.

While his publicist has denied reports that the actor plans to buy a property close to pal Chris Hemsworth, he and his family have made several trips to Australia over the past 18 months.

The star is reportedly leasing a property next door to Hemsworth and wife Elsa Pataky in Broken Head.

Damon's latest visit has included dancing at Bluesfest in Byron Bay, snapping selfies with fans and plenty of beach time with the Hemsworths.

He was also spotted last weekend at Rainbow Beach in Queensland, surfing at nearby Double Island Point and dining at Coffee Rocks restaurant, with both families having enjoyed a break in the area.

Pataky, who has been shooting Netflix series Tudumbs on location at Sandgate in north Brisbane, has been sharing candid snaps with Barroso throughout their time Down Under.

Her most recent shots from the Rainbow Beach vacation drew criticism from locals after it showed the families had lit a fire on the beach.

OUCH: Actor Matt Damon struggles to lift daughter Stella, 7, in Byron Bay on Friday.

CFMEU pays for Thai ice rehab

EXCLUSIVE
MANDY SQUIRES

ONE of the country's biggest unions is bankrolling the treatment of drug-addicted members at luxury overseas rehab centres.

The Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) is offering members special cut-price deals at one of Thailand's most exclusive clinics, The Dawn in Chiang Mai, to kick their habits.

On its website, which spotlights the CFMEU logo among others, The Dawn describes itself as "Asia's leading, luxury rehab facility", with treatment costing thousands of dollars a month.

The cut-price deals are available to the union's national membership base of 150,000 workers and their families, with some members also able to receive financial support to help cover the remaining cost of their treatment.

CFMEU assistant secretary (Victoria and Tasmanian branch) Shaun Reardon said members were helped financially on a case-by-case basis, with money coming from discretionary union funds or raised as needed.

There was no set amount allocated. "We do whatever it takes. If there is a family that needs help they come to us and then we look at each individual case but the long and the short of it is we don't leave people high and dry," he said.

CEO of The Dawn Ohem Poobawad said there were currently two family members of a CFMEU member at the rehab centre on the special union rate.

He was now in talks with Uniclink, the CFMEU's redundancy fund, about the role it may play in supporting members to go to The Dawn in future.

"We've been in touch with them, and it's still in progress, but they are happy to support their union members financially for them to be able to afford treatment because in Australia, my understanding is, there is a huge need for rehab," Mr Poobawad said.

Former ice addict Mark Drayden said the CFMEU donated $10,000 towards his treatment at Thailand's exclusive DARA rehabilitation centre in late-2015.

The donation, which was "raised internally", helped fund his two-month stay at DARA and helped him quit a $800-a-day ice habit he had constructed working as a cleaner at a prison.

Grateful for the assistance, he initiated a relationship between the CFMEU and The Dawn, in a bid to help other union members overcome their addictions by arranging discounted fees for rehab.

Mr Drayden said he was now working to secure discounted rates at The Dawn for all Australian addicts, not just CFMEU members, he said.

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