

# Dance teacher calls for disciplinary action

## Laury Desmond

A local dance teacher has blasted Randwick Girls High School for insufficient disciplinary action after an alleged assault on her by a group of pupils, despite police determining there was too little evidence to proceed with a criminal case.

Despina Rosales claims she was driving out of the school on June 13 this year when a group of pupils surrounded her car, heckling her. After being verbally abused by the girls, Ms Rosales alleges that one pupil

reached into her open car window and punched her on the temple.

On getting out of her car to apprehend the girl who she believed had punched her, Ms Rosales said she was punched, kicked and spat at by about six or seven girls.

Ms Rosales was aided by passing teachers at the school and taken to the acting deputy head teacher's office, where the police were called.

However, the *Southern Courier* understands that the students have

alleged that Ms Rosales attacked them, damaging one girl's bag and "running over" the foot of another. Ms Rosales said she had restrained one of the girls, but did not act violently toward them.

"I teach dancing and am not in the business of running around making up stories," Ms Rosales said. "What have I got to gain?"

A police investigation into the incident deemed there was "too little" evidence to proceed with the case, but Ms Rosales claims that the girls

have not been properly reprimanded and has slammed the school for its lack of action.

"The girls should be expelled," she said. "The school needs to consider the bigger picture and the effect of this on the rest of the student body.

"I am shocked that this is not considered serious enough for immediate expulsion."

The *Courier* contacted the school for comment but was referred to the Department of Education.

Department spokesman Mark Davis said the matter had been investigated and that appropriate action had been taken.

"As a result of a police investigation the school has taken disciplinary action in accordance with department procedures," he said. "All girls were placed on a long suspension."

Since the suspension one girl had not returned to the school, although she was not expelled, Mr Davis said.