

Man's sight loss after fun park knock

# Father sues for slide kick

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A FATHER who was kicked in the eye by a child who had just rocketed down a water slide is suing the swimming pool owner for damages.

Joseph di Benedetto, of Taylors Lakes, filed a claim in the County Court last week for damages over a loss of vision in his right eye as a result of the incident.

Mr di Benedetto had taken his six-year-old son to the Geelong Leisure Link pool in January 2009 when the accident happened.

According to court documents, a lifeguard told Mr di Benedetto that his son could not use the slide unless he waited for him in the pool below.

Mr di Benedetto helped his

## Stephen Drill

son at the foot of the slide when another child hurtled down shortly afterwards. That child's foot made contact with Mr di Benedetto's right eye, the claim says.

The contact caused a rupture to a corneal implant Mr di Benedetto — a shoe shop manager and shoe manufacturer — had operated on in 1992.

Mr di Benedetto underwent emergency surgery to reattach the implant to his right eye and — according to his claim — suffered “severe loss of vision.”

A month later, he underwent a second operation on his

left eye to provide some vision. “The injury has severely lessened the plaintiff's ability to perform his pre-injury work and to earn income,” court documents say.

Through his lawyers, Arnold Thomas and Becker, Mr di Benedetto is claiming damages against the City of Greater Geelong council, owner of the pool.

Court documents allege the council failed to adequately supervise the use of the slide by children and control when they were allowed to descend.

The City of Greater Geelong was unavailable for comment yesterday.

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