

Multi-million dollar clash over two wills

By RAE WILSON

A BATTLE between a former Nambour Hospital medical director's brother, and her lover, over her multi-million dollar estate, is set to play out in court next month.

Dr Karen Mahlo died in May, 2008, three months after she signed a will leaving her \$800,000 Moffat Beach home to her financial advisor, and lover of two years, John Hehir from Financial Advisors Australia.

He was also appointed trustee of the residuary estate, mostly left to her two children, until they turned 35 years of age.

Her brother Brett Mahlo has launched civil action in the Brisbane Supreme Court claiming Mr Hehir influenced her to write a will



THE CASE AT A GLANCE

- Battle over multi-million estate
- Signed will in February, 2008, leaves \$800,000 Moffat Beach home to financial adviser and former lover
- Unsigned May, 2008, will removes him as trustee leaving estate to parents, children
- Brother of the deceased claims the February will was signed under undue influence

in his favour and was involved in preparing it.

According to court documents filed on Brett Mahlo's behalf, his sister allegedly wrote a new will on her computer just before she died at age 52, leaving her estate, including six properties, to her parents and children.

Mr Hehir met Dr Mahlo in early 2006 when she went to his financial services business seeking advice on managing her money and entering the real estate market.

They formed a relationship from September, 2006, after Mr Hehir phoned to wish her a happy birthday.

In his affidavit filed in the civil proceedings, Mr Hehir alleged Dr Mahlo struggled with mental illness throughout their relationship.

"I have grave concerns as to Ka-

ren's capacity at the time the May 16, 2008 document was allegedly made," Mr Hehir wrote.

"At this time, her psychiatric condition continued and she also continued to consume alcohol, at times to excess."

Mr Hehir, in his affidavit, also disputed allegations the February, 2008, will was the result of "undue influence of Karen by me".

"I deny any such assertion," he wrote.

"There are substantial issues of factual controversy in this matter necessitating a trial before determination can be made as to which document should be declared as the last will of Karen."

A hearing is expected to take place on August 8 and 9.