

Telegraph Mirror

1.3 MILLION READERS A DAY

Sydney, Tuesday, May 23, 1995

WEATHER: Cloudy, 19 degrees

Phone: 288 3000

70 cents*

Private eyes hired to spy on children

INCREASING numbers of parents are hiring private investigators to spy on their children at school, playing sport and relaxing with friends, according to some of the State's leading surveillance companies.

In what is fast becoming the Nineties version of bridging the generation gap, industry experts said today scores of families were turning to investigators every week in an attempt to control their wayward offspring.

They said many parents were prepared to spend hundreds of dollars having their child's

By STEVEN GEE

movements recorded, meetings photographed and even their most intimate moments videotaped.

"They don't really care what it costs, they just want to know what their kids are up to," domestic surveillance expert Warren Mallard, from Lyonswood Investigations, said.

"It could be drugs, alcohol, gangs or prostitution.

"In most cases the parents have a fair idea of what their

kids are up to and just want a bit of proof so they can address the problem before it's too late.

"They often can't confront the kids themselves for one reason or another so they get us to intervene before it becomes a police matter."

Mr Mallard said child surveillance had taken off in Sydney over the past five years, growing from about 5 per cent of the private investigation industry to 25 per cent.

He said traditionally most business came from Sydney's wealthy socio-economic areas in

the eastern suburbs and north shore.

But the balance had begun to shift in recent years with an increasing amount of work coming from middle-income families with ethnic backgrounds.

Families generally spend between \$300 and \$500 for about 20 hours of surveillance.

CPI Investigations spokesman Joseph Pollari said an increasing number wanted to keep tabs of children's sexual encounters.

He said 75 per cent of the children investigated were from Italian or Greek backgrounds.

\$3599



AST Advantage Pentium Multimedia Computer. With 75Mhz Pentium processor, 8Mb RAM, quad speed CD ROM, 16-bit sound card, 540Mb HD, 3.5" FDD, 14,400 fax/data modem plus Microsoft DOS, Windows, Works plus Microsoft Golf and Encarta on CD.

Harvey Norman

SYDNEY METRO • AUBURN 847 2811 • ARNCLIFFE 599 1366 • BLACKTOWN 831 2155 • BROOKVALE 938 1711 • CAMPBELLTOWN (048) 28 4088 • CHATSWOOD 419 6133 • FAIRFIELD 727 8777 • GORDON 498 1499 • MIRANDA FAIR 528 1333 • MOORE PARK 313 6500 • PENRITH (047) 32 1586 • WILEY PARK 740 6055 NSW COUNTRY • ERINA • MAITLAND • NEWCASTLE • NOWRA • WARRAWONG