

## Canvassing offers to help pay off debt



Muscle bound ... Barbara Flynn and a life-size sculpture of a security guard, which will be auctioned at Sotheby's. Photo: Dallas Kilponen

### Louise Schwartzkoff

A COLLECTION of 73 works by contemporary art stars will be auctioned this month in the first corporate art sell-off in response to the financial crisis.

Austcorp Group's art collection goes under the

hammer at Sotheby's on August 25, three months after the property group fell into voluntary administration with debts of \$550 million.

The sale will make only a small dent in the debts, with an estimated sale price of between \$807,500 and \$1.1 million.

The company's executive chairman, Trevor Chappell, built the collection with the help of art consultant Barbara Flynn, choosing work by celebrated contemporary artists and emerging talents from Australia and New Zealand.

In the reception area of the St

Leonards head office, a life-sized sculpture of a security guard by Michael Parekowhai caused more than one visitor a moment's confusion. A 27-panel work by Patricia Piccinini hung on the wall, and a DVD work by TV Moore played on a plasma television screen.

## Shonky schools face reckoning: Baird

### Heath Gilmore and Nick O'Malley

THE \$15.5 billion-a-year international education industry is likely to shrink as shonky operators face their "day of reckoning", says the head of a Federal Government review of its future.

The former Liberal MP Bruce Baird, who has been charged with overhauling an industry beset by months of turmoil with violent attacks against students and allegations of corruption, said a contraction was possible over the short term, although he declined to speculate on the size.

Mr Baird said some educational institutions had been set up for the sole purpose of



Bruce Baird ... interim report expected by November.

getting students permanent residency visas. He said the Immigration Minister, Chris Evans, and his review of the law and regulations governing the international education industry would examine "decoupling"

the link between education and immigration. The review needed to look at a "market failure", which had been covered extensively in the media.

"You could see shrinkage in the short term. This review aims to rebuild [the reputation] of Australian providers and standards to ensure long-term growth. If you have a problem you go about excising it."

The visa rorting system arose from shonky education institutions and migration and education agents taking advantage of a policy change by the Howard government in 2001 to allow overseas students in Australia to apply for permanent residency as skilled migrants.

The Minister for Education, Julia Gillard, last week appointed Mr Baird to head the review of the laws and regulations governing education services for overseas students.

She has given him a wide brief to explore significant issues affecting the sector through submissions and public forums around the country.

Mr Baird has close ties to the Indian community. He said he wanted to speak with police about the violent attacks on Indians in Sydney and Melbourne being racially motivated, as well as students' general safety and well being.

An interim report is expected by November.