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Brooky halfway home

By CHRIS MIRAMS and NZPA

A piece of fatherly advice helped Wellington's Lynnette Brooky to a four-shot lead at the halfway stage of the rich ANZ Masters women's golf tournament in Australia yesterday.

The 33-year-old was told by father Frank to believe in herself more, and she was doing just that ahead of the third round of the A\$500,000 (NZ\$616,067) tournament today.

Brooky carved up the Royal Pines course in New South Wales for the second straight day with a seven-under-par 65 to reach 13-under and shock a high-class field, including three-time defending champion Karrie Webb, the world

No 1 of Australia. Brooky shot a 66 on Thursday's opening day.

"We had some talks before she left and I told her she needed to believe in herself and that way she'd be able to perform consistently," Frank Brooky, of Titahi Bay, said today.

"Usually she can keep it going once she gets into this position, so we're hopeful."

Brooky was one of the more public victims of would-be promoter Frank Burgess and the failed Women's Golf Classic due for Lower Hutt last month.

Brooky agreed to try and lure players to Wellington for the tournament and was unsure how she would be received on the circuit after the event was can-

celled. A police investigation of Burgess has been passed on to the Serious Fraud Office.

"She's got over that all right," her father Frank said. "She was extremely disappointed but talking to her before she left for Australia she was feeling good."

Webb, the highest women's golfer, shot 70 yesterday and is sitting outright third, six shots off Brooky. American Kelly Robbins is in second, two better than Webb and four behind Brooky.

Yesterday Brooky reached every

green in regulation and one-putted on seven of them for four birdies on the front nine and three on the back.

Brooky was all smiles after her round, putting her outstanding form down to technical changes recommended by coach Alex Mercer two weeks ago.

"Alex said I was ready and I've just been practising hard since and getting in the position he wants me to be to strike the ball straight. It's working," she said.

The other key was a relaxed state of mind, induced by a couple of months staying with friends in Martinborough in a house that neighboured a golf course.

"I'd play golf whenever I felt like it and then I'd just go home and eat and drink some wine. That was definitely good for me."



Lynnette Brooky