

Thursday 30 April, 2020

PATIENT THANKS ST GEORGE HOSPITAL FOR SAVING HIS LIFE

St George Hospital's first COVID-19 patient, who received life-saving treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU) for two weeks, has returned to thank the staff for saving his life.

Joseph Tannous, a 50-year-old businessman from Brighton-Le-Sands, was admitted on Saturday 21 March and battled with COVID-19 related pneumonia for two weeks in the ICU.

For 10 days he was in a critical condition in an induced coma and required a ventilator to breathe.

Three weeks after being discharged on Tuesday 7 April, Mr Tannous returned to St George Hospital with a gift of 10 fruit boxes, thanks to MD Providores and Sydney Markets, as a token of his appreciation for the exceptional care he received while in hospital.

"I'm so grateful to everyone at St George Hospital for the care I received and I would like to thank all of the staff as they are such an amazing team, including the doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and speech pathologists - everyone is incredible at their jobs," Mr Tannous said.

Mr Tannous, a fit, active and healthy man before contracting the virus, was extremely happy that he made it to his 50th birthday on Saturday 25 April.

"I think it's very important that people, particularly younger people, stop taking the attitude that it won't happen to them and Coronavirus will only cause serious health problems for those who are elderly," Mr Tannous said.

"I want people to know that this virus can cause severe illness to anyone, so people need to take this seriously."

Clare Loveday, Nurse Manager Intensive Care Services, St George Hospital, said Mr Tannous was critically unwell after developing COVID-19 related pneumonia.

"Mr Tannous' first symptom was a dry cough when he was diagnosed with COVID-19 but within six days his condition deteriorated, making it very difficult for him to breathe," Ms Loveday said.

"Even though Mr Tannous has no medical co-morbidities and is normally very healthy and fit, he became critically unwell and required mechanical ventilation to support his breathing."

Sydney Markets CEO, Bradley Latham said they were delighted to support Mr Tannous' gift of appreciation and have recently been supporting frontline healthcare workers by donating boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables.

"Ensuring our frontline healthcare workers have access to fresh fruit and vegetables during this time is paramount to their well-being," Mr Latham said.

“Sydney Markets is pleased to support the staff at St George Hospital with a donation of fruit boxes to show our gratitude for their continued hard work and dedication in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Rebecca Tyson, Acting General Manager, St George Hospital, said staff were thrilled to see Mr Tannous on the road to a complete recovery.

“It’s wonderful to see Mr Tannous is so well and on behalf of St George Hospital I’d like to thank him, MD Providores and Sydney Markets for this lovely gift,” Ms Tyson said.

“Our staff are working harder than ever at the moment and it certainly lifts everyone’s spirits when their hard work is appreciated, but nothing makes us happier as healthcare workers than seeing a patient recover.”

Mr Tannous said he felt lucky that St George Hospital has so many caring and skilled health professionals who go above and beyond each day to care for their patients.

“We have the best health system in the world,” he added.