

15 February, 2012

Prince of Wales Hospital supports *DonateLife* Week 2012

Staff at Prince of Wales Hospital today announced their support for Australia's *DonateLife* Week, being held across the nation from Sunday 19 February, 2012 to increase Australia's organ and tissue donation rates.

As part of *DonateLife* Week, an information stall will be held in the Prince of Wales Hospital Barker Street entrance on Wednesday 22 February, 2012 from 9am to 3pm, with organ and tissue donor coordinators on hand to answer questions about organ donation. Additionally, an information stall will be held at Westfield, Eastgardens (Level 1) on Friday 24 February, 2012 from 9am to 3pm.

Dr Gordon Flynn, Medical Director for Organ and Tissue Donation, Prince of Wales and Sydney Children's Hospital, said the most important thing that people can do to help save lives through organ and tissue donation this *DonateLife* Week is to *Ask and Know Your Loved One's Donation Wishes*.

"The family of every potential donor is always involved in the decision to respect the donation wishes of their loved ones before organ and/or tissue donation can proceed," Dr Flynn said.

"When more families ask and know the donation wishes of family members, they will be well aware of the wishes of loved ones if and when the situation arises.

"In our hospitals we also have specialist doctors, nurses and social workers who will support families before, during and long after the donation process," Dr Flynn said.

Organ and tissue donation can change lives:

- Liver, heart and lung transplants saves lives immediately
- Corneas can restore sight
- Kidney transplants can take people off regular dialysis and back to a normal life without regular hospital visits
- Pancreas transplants can cure type 1 diabetes

"Transplantation means that a very sick person can return to a normal life again; be an active member of the family again and return to work and community life," Dr Flynn said.

Terry Clout, Chief Executive Officer of NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service and Chief Executive, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, said this year's *DonateLife* Week 2012 brings together all participants in the organ and tissue sector to ask Australians to have a memorable discussion with their loved ones to ensure they know and understand their organ and tissue donation wishes.

"Talking about organ and tissue donation with loved ones can be difficult, however, I encourage anyone who hasn't had the discussion with those close to them to do it today," Mr Clout said.

The state-wide launch for *DonateLife* Week will be held on Monday 20 February, 2012 at 8.00am in Martin Place, Sydney. For further information about *DonateLife* Week visit www.donatelife.gov.au

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

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