



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

31 August 2004

### **Spring into action and have a ball**

**Residents of south-western Sydney are invited to spring into action this September at the Whitlam Joint Replacement Centre (WJRC) annual fundraising ball.**

WJRC at Fairfield Hospital is a centre of excellence that specialises in joint replacement surgery and chances are that someone you know may benefit.

The spring themed ball promises to be a fun night for all with entertainment by MO Award Nominees *Frogs on Toast* and former *Sale of the Century* host Glenn Ridge as MC.

The WJRC aims to raise more than \$120,000 to be used for a hydrotherapy pool and ongoing research into knee and hip replacements including the short, intermediate and long-term outcomes following an operation.

Last year's inaugural ball raised \$116,000 which has already boosted the centre's service and research capabilities.

Funds raised were used to purchase 10 electric beds, rehabilitation equipment and new computer software as well as develop an information website and patient education aids.

WJRC Chairperson and orthopaedic surgeon Dr John Ireland said with more than 270 joint replacements carried out in 2003–2004, the centre leads the way in planned orthopaedic surgery such as hip and knee replacements.

“For people with a debilitating condition such as serious arthritis, joint replacement may be the only way to alleviate the constant pain and improve mobility, allowing them to lead a normal life again,” he said.

Joint replacement involves a surgical procedure to replace part or all of a diseased or damaged joint such as the hip or knee.

Dr Ireland said coming to terms with a joint replacement can be difficult but the centre's Joint Replacement Program was specifically tailored to guide patients through the challenges of the procedure.

"The centre has been successful in reducing length of stay for patients that have had a total hip or knee replacement, a factor that is extremely important for patients that want to get back home and get on with life," he said.

Dr Ireland urged businesses and residents across south-western Sydney to support the event.

"The centre provides for patients in the direct vicinity of Fairfield and Liverpool through to Macarthur and Wollondilly in the south, Bankstown in the east and all the way out to Penrith in the west.

"With an aging population and arthritis affecting 50 per cent of Australians over 65, the number of people needing a joint replacement who rely on the centre is increasing - not to mention the young people in Sydney's south-west who use our services."

The ball is proudly supported by:

Silver sponsors: Bing Lee Casula and Global Orthopaedics Technology Pty Ltd

Bronze sponsors: Aventis, Depuy, Fairfield RSL, Mounties, Pharma, Smith and Nephew Surgical, Smithfield RSL, Stryker and Zimmer Australia.

**What:** Whitlam Joint Replacement Centre's Annual Fundraising Ball

**When:** Friday 10 September

**Time:** 6.30pm onwards

**Place:** Club Marconi, Bossley Park.

For further information, ticket sales and sponsorship please contact Maryanne Ciccone (02) 9616 8208 or Leanne Gray (02) 9616 8393

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