

Press Release

16th November 2016

Tiny spoons help to save tiny lives

To recognise World Prematurity Day (17th November, 2016) The Cutlery Commission Australia will be raising funds for The Royal Hospital for Women Foundation.

Every year The Royal Hospital for Women brings 4,200 new babies into the world, and 600 of them are premature.

Worldwide preterm birth complications are the leading cause of death among children under 5 years of age, responsible for nearly 1 million deaths in 2013. Three-quarters of them could be saved with current, cost-effective interventions.

Proceeds from Christmas gift wrapping – with a minimum of \$2.50 per gift wrapped, will be donated to the Royal Hospital for Women Foundation to purchase life-saving equipment and fund vital research to save babies lives.

Tiny Spoons for tiny people was a campaign created by Director of The Cutlery Commission Australia Laurie Creasy's eldest daughter Millie spent a short period in Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in 2009.

"Our baby stopped breathing. It was the biggest shock of my life" says Laurie.

"We were transported from the hospital in Mona Vale and taken to The Royal, where we spent three days with the most wonderful nurses."

"The team at The Royal might have saved my baby's life. I have spent the last 5 years donating to The Royal so other babies can have the care my little Millie did" reflects Laurie now that she has a healthy 7 year old, who lives beyond the hospital's typical eastern suburb's service footprint.

As the only women's hospital in New South Wales, The Royal Hospital for Women cares for women and babies within the eastern suburbs, but with one of the most advanced Newborn Intensive Care Units' in NSW, it saves babies lives from across the state.

"It's a story I hear daily. No one plans for their baby to be in the hospital's newborn intensive care unit. Every little life is precious and it is heart-warming when grateful parents return to donate" says Catherine Oates Smith, CEO Royal Hospital for Women Foundation.

Every day at The Royal, a baby's life begins, a baby's life is saved, a woman's life is saved and new research creates miracles.

Catherine continues “with 70% of the life-saving equipment in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit purchased through donated funds, it shows you how significant the need for donations are.

Keeping a baby breathing on a ventilator for just half an hour costs \$52.

You can’t put a price on saving a newborn baby’s life, but without donations’ the hospital might miss out on equipment it needs”.

Over the past 150 years The Royal Hospital for Women has been pioneering the care of women and babies.

Donations made this World Prematurity Day will help The Royal Hospital for Women continue their 150 year tradition of caring for women and babies, often at their most vulnerable.

To shop at The Cutlery Commission, visit: www.thecutlerycommission.com.au

Timeline of the past 150 years at The Royal:

1821: the Benevolent Society open the Benevolent Asylum in Pitt Street providing care for underprivileged women and laying the foundations for what will later become The Royal Hospital for Women.

1866: the Asylum becomes known as the Lying-In Hospital after Dr. Arthur Renwick opens a Lying-In ward exclusively for maternity care.

1901: the Lying-In Hospital moves to Paddington.

1904: in October King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra confer the Royal warrant and the Hospital officially becomes The Royal Hospital for Women.

1912: the first antenatal clinic in Australia is opened at The Royal. This clinic is now the longest running antenatal clinic in the world.

1926: Dr. Margaret Harper opens a premature nursery, halving the neonatal death rate.

1943: Australia’s first female and male fertility clinic opened (known then as the sterility clinic).

1949: Australia’s first gynaecological cancer detection clinic is opened at The Royal.

1950: the 100,000th baby is born at the Hospital.

1962: Australia’s first diagnostic ultrasound service is established.

1970: the world’s first cardiac ultrasound of a baby in utero is performed at The Royal.

1974: the world’s first cranial ultrasound of a baby in utero is performed at The Royal.

1978: Australia’s first menopause clinic is opened.

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1983: one of the first birth centres in Australia is opened at The Royal

1985: the world's first in utero procedure to save a baby's life is performed at The Royal.

1989: Australia's first comprehensive Gynaecological Oncology Unit is opened.

1992: the Eastern Sydney Area Health Service takes over management of The Royal Hospital for Women from the Benevolent Society.

1997: on the 23rd of June, The Royal moves from Paddington to Randwick to be co-located with the Sydney Children's Hospital and the Prince of Wales Hospital.

2000: Mothersafe is established and run from at The Royal.

2002: the 300,000th baby is born at The Royal.

2006: the Malabar Midwives service established.

2010: Midwifery Group Practice commences, The Royal now has one of the largest caseload midwifery services in the world.

2016: the building of Australia's first comprehensive public, holistic Fertility and Research Centre, begins in December to be opened in 2017.

SOURCES 1. Preterm Birth Fact Sheet No.363, World Health Organisation, Updated November 2014

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