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MEDIA RELEASE

Transplant Australia congratulates St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, on world first heart transplant breakthrough

St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney have today announced a world first for organ and tissue donation. The Heart Transplant Team, led by Professor Peter MacDonald, have successfully transplanted two after circulatory death heart transplants in patients with end stage heart failure. Both patients are doing well.

Until now, heart transplants have been restricted to donated hearts from brain death patients. This new breakthrough for the Australian medical profession will open up the potential for more heart transplants to occur, saving more lives of the 1,600 people currently on the transplant waiting list.

In this instance, the transplanted hearts were resuscitated after circulatory death and transplanted into the two recipients.

Transplant Australia Chairman, Alan Amodio, said,

"At any one time there are 1,600 people desperately waiting for their second chance at life – a second chance that can only come through the generosity of another. Transplant Australia would like to offer our congratulations to the St Vincent's Team on such a landmark achievement that will pave the way in reducing Australia's transplant waiting list."

"Australia has world class transplant physicians in the transplant hospitals throughout this country, who every day achieve wonderful and amazing things. But today we would like to recognise and celebrate the team at St Vincent's who have made this huge achievement," Mr Amodio said.

This world first procedure is a culmination of ongoing and extensive research by Professor MacDonald and his team, who are to be commended for the achievement of this milestone, that will change the way the world performs heart transplants.

For more information on organ and tissue donation visit www.donatelife.org.au

For more information on Transplant Australia visit www.transplant.org.au or phone Richelle King, Communications Manager at Transplant Australia on 0406 906 500

