

April 4, 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

Penrith Panthers Coach Ivan Cleary – a great ambassador for a great cause

Penrith Panthers Head Coach, Ivan Cleary, has already done more than enough for the cause of organ and tissue donation. In late 2017 he donated a kidney to his brother, Ash, who had been struck down with kidney disease.

Ivan today takes that commitment one step further agreeing to become an ambassador for organ and tissue donation with national charity, Transplant Australia.

Transplant Australia CEO, Chris Thomas, thanked Ivan not only for his selfless decision to help his brother but his willingness to share his personal story with the Penrith players, staff and fans and the wider community.

“Transplant Australia and some transplant recipients had the pleasure of spending a few hours with Ivan, his son Nathan and all the team this week at training. As a first grade coach he obviously lives in a pressure cooker environment with results expected every week,” Mr Thomas said.

“From our perspective he’s already a winner through this extremely generous act to help his brother, Ash. Ash has made a full recovery and its obvious this has had a profound effect on the Cleary family and all the players at Penrith.

“We are extremely pleased Ivan has agreed to be an ambassador for the next 12 months and he is in a unique role to help convince more Australians to sign on to be registered organ donors.

“There are 1,497 Australians currently waiting for a life-saving transplant. Just over 1,000 are waiting for an urgent kidney transplant and unfortunately not everyone can be the recipient of a live kidney such as the case with the Cleary brothers. We need as many Australians as possible to register to save lives.”

Danielle Fisher, General Manager for the NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service said they were thrilled that the Penrith Panthers were supporting organ and tissue donation,”

“With 1,400 Australians on transplant waiting lists, the Penrith Panther’s message to fans to register their lifesaving decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register at donatelifegov.au and discuss this decision with family, is invaluable.”

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