



MEDIA RELEASE
June 2010

The Lions Eye Clinic for Children opens at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick

When: 10am, Friday 18 June 2010
Where: Main Foyer, Sydney Children's Hospital, High St, Randwick
What: Official opening of The Lions Eye Clinic for Children

After eight years of solid fundraising efforts by Lions Clubs of Sydney, The Lions Eye Clinic for Children will finally open at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick on Friday 18 June.

Around 100 guests will attend the opening and hear from MC Vince Sorrenti and Tony Collins, the father of an Eye Clinic patient. Guests of honour Paul Pearce MP, Member for Coogee, and Al Brandel, President of Lions Clubs International Foundation from the USA will attend. They will be joined by Lions and Lionesses from Lions Clubs all around Sydney as well as representatives from Variety, The Children's Charity; Sydney Eye Hospital; and the Prince of Wales Adult Eye Clinic at the opening.

The opening of The Lions Eye Clinic for Children has been long anticipated by the kids of Sydney Children's Hospital, not to mention the members of 23 Lions Clubs in Sydney as well. Lions Clubs from central and south Sydney began fundraising for the construction of a new children's eye clinic in 2002 and have collected an amazing \$1 million since then.

Dr. Ian Kennedy, an ophthalmologist at Sydney Children's Hospital, said, "Without the Lions Clubs' donation, the Eye Clinic would still be consigned to the drawing board. The long-term commitment of the Lions Club has allowed us to create a world class facility where we can provide expert care for children with complex eye problems and conditions."

Paul Heeks, Cronulla Lions Club member and the District Chairman of the Lions Club District 201N5 Sydney Children's Hospital Eye Clinic Appeal, said, "Cronulla Lions Club is very proud of the hard work all the clubs undertook to raise \$1 million. We value the relationship we have with Sydney Children's Hospital immensely, and it is very exciting that a partnership between Lions Clubs from central and south Sydney means we can open the new Eye Clinic at the Hospital."

Adam Check, Chief Executive Officer of the Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation, said, "Sydney Children's Hospital depends on community support from wonderful organisations like the Lions Club to ensure our patients and staff have access to the best facilities. With the opening of the Eye Clinic, the Lions Club has made a positive investment in the health and well being of children from all over New South Wales and beyond."

The critical funds raised by Lions Clubs of Sydney have enabled the construction of the new eye clinic, so that children who suffer from eye problems will be able to receive the specialist treatment they require. The Lions Club of Cronulla is to be commended in particular for raising more than \$700,000 of the final total.

For more information, please contact:

Tara Donnelly
Sydney Children's Hospital Foundation
Ph: 9382 0232 or email tara.donnelly@schf.org.au