

MEDIA ALERT FOR MON SEPT 19



MELBOURNE AMBOS ACHIEVE OPTIMUM STROKE CARE

The results of a Melbourne-based research project to improve paramedic diagnosis of stroke will be officially launched at Box Hill Hospital on Monday September 19 at 11.00am to mark the start of National Stroke Week.

Anne-Marie Kelly was one of the lucky ones.

At just 33 years of age, the mother of three was sitting watching TV with her partner when she began to 'feel funny'.

She felt pins and needles on her right side and then went numb. Her speech went.

Anne-Marie had had a stroke.

Luckily for Anne-Marie, the paramedics that responded to her partner's emergency call were aware of the major Melbourne research study aimed at improving paramedic diagnosis of stroke. They quickly identified Anne-Marie as a stroke victim, and transported her to Box Hill Hospital, where they knew a rapid stroke assessment process and a dedicated stroke unit were in place.

On Monday September 19, Anne-Marie Kelly will return to Box Hill Hospital to help launch the results of the study that she was so unwittingly part of.

Prof Chris Bladin, Eastern Melbourne Neurosciences (and Anne-Marie's doctor), and Kevin Masci, Melbourne Metropolitan Ambulance Service, will be on hand to unveil the results of the 12 month study and discuss the implications for stroke assessment and treatment in Australia. They will be joined by Dr Erin Lalor, CEO, National Stroke Foundation and paramedics who participated in the Faster Access to Stroke Therapy (FAST) study.

EVENT: Release of new research on role of paramedics in treating stroke and launch of National Stroke Week 2005

DATE/TIME: Monday, September 19, 2005 at 11.00am

VENUE: Box Hill Hospital: Noel Ramsay Lecture Theatre, Ground Floor, Clive Ward Building, Entry via 16 Arnold St, Box Hill

VISUALS: Photo opportunities include uniformed paramedics, a young stroke survivor and an ambulance

For further information, or to advise attendance, please contact:
Kelly Ward on 03 9744 1855 or 0407 860 834 or David Jarwood on 0413 288 403