

# Lions NSW-ACT Sight & Health

registered business name of

**Lions Clubs NSW-ACT Save Sight & Health Care Limited**

ABN: 25 001 232 659

as trustee for

**Lions NSW-ACT Save Sight Foundation**

ABN: 57 536 782 464

and

**Lions Clubs NSW-ACT Public Health Care Foundation**

ABN: 75 575 730 056



**Patron: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales**

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## EYE BANK REPORT

**Sunday, 28 November 2021**

### **NEW MANAGER OF THE NSW TISSUE BANK**

Sharn Dowsett has been appointed the new Manager of the NSW Tissue Bank. Sharn was previously with the Forensic & Analytical Science Service of NSW Health Pathology.

### **THE EYE BANK**

The Eye Bank has had to deal with many challenges during COVID but is still meeting all targets.

### **NSW TISSUE BANK & SOLID ORGAN BANK**

Due to the expansion of the Tissue Bank over the last 20 years, the Tissue bank, along with the Solid Organ Bank will be locating to the same premises over the next 12-18 months. This will allow sharing of facilities including the research lab.

### **INTERNATIONAL CORNEAL/EYE BANKING PROJECTS**

Sadly, due to COVID and the Military Coup in Myanmar, the two Eye Banks have been closed resulting in transplant surgery ceasing. It has been very difficult for Australian Colleges to obtain any information on the welfare of the Doctors and Nursing staff as the majority of medical personnel have gone into hiding.

### **RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

As mentioned in my last report, Professor Sutton has been awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) to continue his work on Bioengineered Eye Tissue Research. Lions funding paid for the researchers that lead them to this point. This project is in collaboration with the University of Sydney, NSW Organ & Tissue Bank, Wollongong University, Melbourne University and Queensland University of Technology.

The Bioengineered Eye Tissue project is amongst ten research groups that received a \$1,000,000 grant. Over the next 12 months each project has to prove if it is commercially viable and would gain a 10 times return on its investment. Out of the ten groups, 2-3 will be selected to receive a further grant of \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000 to continue their research.

Lion Rosemary Sheather  
District 201N5 Director