

Minister for Health the Hon. Brad Hazzard opens the 35th Annual Cornea Society and Eye Bank Meeting

March 2018

The Minister for Health and Medical Research, the Hon. Brad Hazzard, was delighted to provide an opening address at the 35th Annual ANZ Cornea Society and Eye Bank Meeting in February.

The meeting facilitated thought-provoking content and robust discussion in the field of corneal disease and surgery, eye banking, and medical research in Australia and New Zealand.

The agenda covered an exciting array of cutting edge developments, such as the new maxillofacial procedures for eyes and the latest work undertaken to develop a Corneal Biopen.

Distinguished guests included Associate Professor Jod Mehta, Corneal Service Head & Senior Consultant, who travelled from Singapore to attend.



From left to right: Prof Gerard Sutton, Dr Con Petsoglou, Minister for Health and Medical Research, The Hon. Brad Hazzard, Jane Trelloggen

NSW leads the way in Eye & Tissue Donations in 2017

The NSW Tissue Banks are thrilled to announce that eye and tissue donation in NSW are now at unprecedented levels.

NSW led the country in 2017 with a total of 2,697 eye and tissue donations, resulting in many life changing transplants. In addition to this, for the 6th year running, NSW met clinical demand for corneal transplants. Overall, 9000+ Australians benefited from eye and tissue donation last year.

We attribute these incredibly encouraging figures to the generous acts of Australians, and their families, who decided to transform the lives of others through tissue donation.

9,000+

AUSTRALIANS BENEFITED FROM EYE AND TISSUE DONATION

Source: Organ and Tissue Authority
2016-2017 Annual Report

2018 EBAANZ Annual General & Scientific Meeting

The 2018 Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand Annual General and Scientific Meeting, hosted at Sydney/Sydney Eye Hospital last month, was a great success.

The meeting encompassed a diverse range of stimulating sessions and topics – from the current trends in drug and alcohol use and how this is impacting tissue function and donor assessment to the influencing factors in decision making during donor family conversations, to managing stress in the workplace.

For the first time, the meeting initiated a speaking opportunity from each Eye Bank across the country, to present 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of 2017', facilitating robust discussion in the way of key learnings and future planning for the year ahead.



The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists
THE LEADERS IN COLLABORATIVE EYE CARE

Welcoming Angela to the Team

We are delighted to welcome a new face to the Tissue Retrieval Team, Angela Novo.

Pictured here, Ms Novo holds up our inspiration board, which this month reminds us of the fabulous work undertaken at the NSW Tissue Banks. Welcome Angela!



Ms Angela Novo, Tissue Retrieval Technician

TGA attends the 2018 EBAANZ Annual General & Scientific Meeting

The 2018 EBAANZ Annual General & Scientific Meeting featured a session dedicated to regulatory discussion with TGA representatives on hand to address updates to medical suitability criteria, variations to dossier submissions, as well as a review of Therapeutic Goods Order 88.

The session proved to be very valuable and mutually beneficial. A testament to the sector and efforts by both groups for effective communication.

Australian Ocular Biobank update

The AOB has released 700 specimens for research since it became operational in March 2017.



Ms Mona Ghabcha, Tissue Donor Coordinator, during the first official photo shoot for the AOB.



New Eye Module for EDR

The Organ and Tissue Authority has integrated a new eye module into the Electronic Donor Record (EDR).

The EDR serves as the national web based system that enables the tracking and sharing of donor and transplant related information, without the need for paper trails.

The eye module tracks the process from donor assessment to release of tissue for transplantation, and will allow for greater accessibility among healthcare professionals whilst maintaining and protecting donor records.



Eye Banking Graduates

The 35th ANZ Cornea Society and Eye Bank Meeting was the perfect opportunity to congratulate the first graduates of the University of Melbourne's Certificate in Eye Banking.

The certificate course was initiated and facilitated by the Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand (EBAANZ). The course featured NSW lecturers and Tissue Bank Manager, Jane Treloggen among the first students.

The next course has commenced with staff from NSW and Australian and a number of International eye banks enrolled.

Well done graduates of 2017!



Pictured: The Graduates celebrate by starting a new tradition a 'fez toss'!

Femoral Head Donation Rates Soar

Wagga Wagga Rural Referral Hospital's contribution to the NSW Tissue Bank's living donation programs has been recognised as one of the best in the state.

The hospital achieved its first 100 femoral head donors, a great milestone for orthopaedic patients across the country.

Well done to NSW Tissue Banks Living Donor Coordinator, Helen McKeon, for heading this program.

Contact

Please contact the staff of the Lions NSW Eye Bank on 02 9382 7288 if you have any questions or would like a speaker for a meeting, dinner or event. To book facility tours on the 1st Wed of Month, at 11am please ring 02 9382 7855