

# *Media Statement*

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## First lung transplant recipient gives back to RPH

Dunsborough resident Gordon Black knows first hand what it is like to need expert health care and this is precisely why he and his wife Rona, have worked hard to raise money to provide equipment for other transplant recipients at Royal Perth Hospital.

Mr Black has come along way since being the first person to receive a lung transplant at Royal Perth Hospital in November 2004, and has been involved in raising money since then to assist in the purchase of two electric scooters.

Mr Black was diagnosed with emphysema four years ago and was connected to an oxygen supply 24-hours a day, unable to work, before receiving his life-saving transplant.

In January this year he was back in hospital with an infection in his lung, where Mr Black once again received many life-saving treatments.

"It didn't look like I was going to make it," Mr Black said. "I spent Christmas in hospital and was in intensive care for nine days."

But thanks to the expert care of all those involved in Mr Black's treatment, he managed to recover, and though it hasn't been smooth-sailing for Mr Black and his family, knowing first-hand the emotional turmoil involved in being ill, is just further motivation to try and do something to help others who may be going through a similar situation.

Mr Black and his wife Rona have enlisted the help of friends Glen Taylor and Vera Nash, have been knitting scarves, beanies, babies wear and all sorts of things over the past two years. They have then set up a stall outside the Coles Shopping Centre in Dunsborough.

The money raised for the transplant foundation has enabled them to purchase two electric scooters which are being donated to Royal Perth Hospital.

Mr Black enlisted the help of child-hood friend Digby Huggett, who owns four Independent Living Equipment businesses across Perth, and knowing of Mr Black's history, was only too happy to also assist financially with the two scooters.

Mr Black said this was his way of saying thank you to all the hospital staff and giving something back.

"RPH have been like a family and this is one way we can give something back to the hospital, as well as help recipients in the future," Mr Black said.

Royal Perth Hospitals' transplant coordinator Sharon Lawrence said this was a very generous gift and would benefit many patients in the future.

"The scooters will assist many patients, including post transplant patients and those who are awaiting a transplant by giving them increased mobility and freedom during what can be a debilitating and frustrating time." Ms Lawrence said.

"Mr Black and his family have also been very involved in spreading the message about the importance of being an organ donor and this is will also serve to assist others in the future," Ms Lawrence said.

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