



What is TAVI?

Transcatheter Aortic Heart Valve Implantation (TAVI) is a breakthrough therapy used to treat high risk patients with aortic valve stenosis (narrowing of aortic valve), who are not eligible for open heart surgery.

A TAVI procedure involves the placement of a balloon-expandable heart valve into the body via a catheter based delivery system.

The valve is designed to replace a patient's diseased native aortic valve without traditional open heart surgery.

During the procedure, the patient's heart continues to beat, avoiding the need to stop the patient's heart and connect them to a heart-lung machine which temporarily takes over the function of the heart and patient's breathing.



- ✔ TPCH Cardiology Program currently involved in several first in man trials of next generation devices is one of the leading sites globally
- ✔ TPCH has performed approximately 380 TAVI procedures since program introduced in 2010
- ✔ Outcomes are better than most published international standards

Above left: Lorrie McPherson has renewed enthusiasm for life.



Heart valve technology gives Lorrie new lease on life

There was a time not so long ago when Lorrie McPherson could barely walk across the street from her seaside home at Wynnum.

Thanks to state-of-the-art cardiac technology being delivered at The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH), Lorrie has returned to the active life she has always enjoyed.

The 87-year-old great grand mother underwent a Transcatheter Aortic Heart Valve Implantation (TAVI) procedure in late 2012 after doctors diagnosed her with narrowing of the aortic valve, which was causing severe shortness of breath.

“Before having the procedure, it took me three turns to walk up my front steps,” Lorrie said.

“It was very frustrating and stopped me from doing what I loved.

“I had to stop my volunteer work with the Red Cross and my regular indoor bowls games. I just didn’t have the energy.

Since having the procedure, Lorrie has a renewed enthusiasm for life.

She has since returned to her volunteer work at the Red Cross as the designated social coordinator, where she organises and participates in regular bus trips.

She has even been on four cruises around Australia and New Zealand

“I feel like I can do anything. It’s great to be able to make plans and know I am well enough to achieve them.

TPCH’s Director of Cardiology, Professor Darren Walters who provides expert opinion and supervision to other TAVI sites across Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the USA, said that due to the non-invasive nature of the procedure, it is a good option

for older, frailer patients who are not physically robust enough to endure major surgery,” Professor Walters said.

“The procedure is tolerated well by the majority of patients and recovery is quick, with most patients feeling significantly better within days of having the procedure,” Professor Walters said.

“The procedure gives patients a new valve and most importantly, a greatly improved quality of life.”

TPCH is a national leader in the Transcatheter Aortic Heart Valve Implantation. Its outcomes for the procedure are excellent and better than most published international standards.

More than 350 patients have received a transcatheter heart valve at TPCH since the technology was first introduced in early 2010.

TPCH is one of 15 sites across Australia and New Zealand to use the Edwards Sapien Transcatheter heart valve technology.