

# Sasha's Story

*Imagine being delivered the news your daughter has only 1% chance of survival.*

*Imagine your body bleeding internally so heavily that your stomach is left open for weeks.*

*Imagine spending 3 months in an induced coma to cope with the pain of your injuries.*

This is Sasha Maggiolo's story. It is one of a chance accident, survival and of how research is contributing to the front line of care in our trauma units.

Sasha Maggiolo (35yrs) had a motorbike accident on 11 May 2007 and was given a 1% chance of survival. Her injuries were horrific: a liver severed in two, a ruptured main artery, broken leg, knee & shoulder plus a fractured vertebrae & ribs. Sasha spent 100 days in ICU with an open and packed abdomen. She set the record of the most blood transfused into one patient at the RBWH (a total of 398 units of blood and blood products), and endured 15 surgeries.

So amazing is her survival, Professor Jeffrey Lipman, who is the Director of the Intensive Care Unit and Director of the Burns, Trauma & Critical Care Research Centre, recently presented her statistics at a conference in South Africa. He attributes her survival to good intensive care work and to the advances in care through research.

"Clinical research is vital. Without the research we have done to date, we would not have been able to save Sasha. We must continue our research endeavours so we can save more lives," Professor Lipman said.

Sasha's father is so inspired by Professor Lipman and his team that he has donated over \$60,000, and will continue donating a sum annually for nurses and doctors at the RBWH to attend conferences and training in critical care.



Sasha has no memory of the first 3 months in hospital and has now had her final operation to close her stomach wound. Her goal is to continue raising funds for the trust her father has established with the RBWH Foundation.

## Thank You

The Board and management of the RBWH Foundation would sincerely like to thank everyone who got behind the 2008 Mother's Day Appeal. This includes all the media who helped raise awareness for the cause, particularly 97.3Fm; companies who provided goods and services; all the restaurants and cafes that got behind the 'Every Mum deserves the Royal Treatment' promotion; everyone who attended our various events; those groups who held their own events, such as morning teas, etc; those businesses that housed our collection tins or distributed our donation envelopes; all the staff in the hospital and the Royal Mums who helped to promote the Appeal; and, most importantly, everyone who made a donation. You truly have helped us to fund research that could save babies lives!

For more on the 2008 Mother's Day Appeal, see inside.



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