



Homeless to Benefit from the Amazing Fundraising Work of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem

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May 2014

The Order of Saint John of Jerusalem held their annual charity lunch for the Diabetes Centre on Friday the 11th April 2014. As always the event was extremely successful and guests enjoyed a beautiful lunch in the Grand Function Room at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel.



Attendees enjoying their lunch at the Castlereagh Boutique Hotel

The Order of Saint John of Jerusalem has been associated with fundraising activities for the Diabetes Centre for six years and we applaud their dedication to supporting this vital service.

The focus of this year's luncheon was to raise funds for the expansion of the proven community project 'Taking it to the Streets'. This preventative project involves education and support for local medical personnel in caring for homeless people with diabetes in their own environment by holding a monthly clinic in the homeless health

centre itself. This vulnerable group, who have a large (but often overlooked) need in our city, are unable to attend diabetes clinics or undertake regular self-care at these stressful times in their lives and their health suffers. A successful pilot project showed improvements in general diabetes health within this population, with none of the patients being admitted to hospital for diabetes-related conditions during the duration of the project. For more information on the pilot program visit our [Matthew Talbot Hostel](#) news story. The Diabetes Service plans to extend the success of this project to other homeless health services in Sydney.

The Diabetes Service was honoured to have the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Councillor Clover Moore attend as the guest speaker. Councillor Moore has a history of supporting the homeless, disadvantaged, poor and dependent members of the community, through 'The Lord Mayor's Salary Trust'. She spoke of the need to support these groups within our community and announced that her trust would donate \$12,000 towards the 'Taking it to the Streets' project.



Left to right: Prior Chevalier Peter Shilton, Lord Mayor of Sydney, Councillor Clover Moore, Professor Lesley Campbell

Sister Anthea Groves of St Vincent's Hospital attended the lunch as an honoured guest of the Diabetes Service and delivered the closing prayer with warmth and kindness.

Combined with raffles and the always lively auction, which raised \$7,000, the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem raised a total of \$19,000 for this important work for the homeless with diabetes to be extended to another homeless health centre. The Diabetes Service would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Prior Chevalier Peter Shilton, HE Conventual Bailiff Fred Maestrelli and everyone that worked tirelessly to make the day a great success, including organising the lunch, sourcing of auction items and donating so generously.

*We bring God's love to those in need
through the healing ministry of Jesus.*

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