

Innovation brings relief for women

Sophie Elsworth

A QUEENSLAND professor who masterminded an innovation to repair bladder prolapse that has been adopted throughout the world said too many women "suffer silently" from the problem.

Townsville Hospital's director of urogynaecology, Professor Ajay Rane, recently received a Queensland Health annual healthcare improvement award for his medical innovation and said he wanted to develop a method to combat the growing problem for women.

"Statistics show one in nine women suffer from bladder prolapse in the Western world, which means it's a very common problem," he said.

"Most of the time women suffer silently for seven to 10 years before they seek help because it's

a non-urgent, non-lethal condition. We wanted to give patients a more robust result with a higher success rate and make sure it lasted forever."

Prof Rane developed the Perigee in April 2003 and estimates more than 400,000 women across

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Professor Ajay Rane

the world have benefited from it.

It was first used at Townsville Hospital in 2004 and later introduced overseas.

Prof Rane said the procedure, using a mesh to correct pelvic floor pro-

lapse, was tested for two years on animals and human cadavers.

"We've now put together all our data on our patients and it's shown the operation has worked and it's minimally invasive," he said.

He said bladder prolapse could affect women as young as 20 and up to 80 years.

"The women suffering bladder prolapse are usually women who have given birth vaginally," he said.

"In their day-to-day life (the procedure) means they don't have a nasty, ugly, uncomfortable bulge hanging outside.

"It also means they are able to empty their bladder better, they don't get infections, their quality of life is better and their sexual life is better."

The Courier-Mail's next people's forum on October 5 will focus on health.



MASTERMIND: Professor Ajay Rane says women don't need to suffer in silence.

Picture: Cameron Laird



DONATION: Juliette Wright accepts a cheque from Lions CEO Malcolm Holmes and TattsBet's Brad Tamer.

Lions stars Givit their all for worthy charity

Kate Higgins

EVERY goal kicked at the Gabba by Lions captain Jonathan Brown was extra special this season, bringing \$100 to a local charity making a big difference.

TattsBet yesterday donated \$4000 to Brisbane-based charity Givit; \$100 for each of the 40 goals kicked by the Brisbane Lions' frontman and his offsideer Mitch Clark.

Givit founder Juliette Wright

said the money helps purchase urgently needed items.

"Givit is different because for every single dollar donated 100 per cent goes to items that people need," she said. "The \$4000 will be for people who have urgent requests.

"There's a single bed, a queen bed and a lounge for a flood-affected family in Gladstone who have been living in a bus. They've just found housing."

Also on the list is a fridge and freezer for a single mum, a

lawnmower for a person suffering from a severe mental illness and a clothes dryer for a mother-of-three.

Mrs Wright launched Givit in February 2010. The organisation allows charities to request specific items that are then matched by donations.

She said she had no idea Givit would be a national phenomenon just one year later.

"I didn't know if anyone was ever going to donate directly, so

the success of it has been a wonderful surprise," she said. "We now have 360 charities that can request anything for their clients."

She said the donation from TattsBet would be particularly welcome because of "donation fatigue" affecting the amount of goods being donated.

"We have to buy a lot of the items required," Mrs Wright said. "I think 10 months on from the floods, many people have given (all) they have free."

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