

Media Release

WA health and business community unite for Banquet for Babies

Tuesday, 18 October 2016

A highly anticipated inclusion to Western Australia's calendar of events is set to celebrate the achievement of one of the State's most prolific research organisations and their critical work to improve the health of its youngest residents.

To be hosted by the Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF), Banquet for Babies will showcase exquisite food and wine unique to our region all in the name of supporting research to prevent preterm birth.

Emcee, ABC reporter and presenter, Charlotte Hamlyn, will join the Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Hon Kerry Sanderson AC, local ministers, private industry, and key health and medical representatives for the inaugural Banquet for Babies event to be held on Saturday, 29 October at Frasers State Reception Centre.

WIRF Executive Director, Professor John Newnham AM said the event's catchcry, 'Four Great Chefs, Four Great Courses, One Great Cause', was a fitting moniker for the Foundation's new flagship event.

"Preterm birth remains the single, largest cause of death and disability in children under five years of age in the developed world. In WA alone, more than 2900 babies are born premature each year. However, we now know that in many cases it is preventable," Professor Newnham said.

"The event will provide a key opportunity to reflect on the significant work that has already been done and to strengthen our resolve to improve areas of women's and newborns' health which matter most to our community. This cannot be achieved without the generous support of the WA community."

A key part of the event will be the unveiling of a pioneering pilot research project which is taking aim at one of the most complex challenges in fetal medicine; how to safely and effectively treat a patient who is within another patient.

Auction and raffles on the evening will allow guests the opportunity to purchase highly sought after items and experiences, including:

- A weekend in a beautiful house in Eagle Bay (sleeping 8 people in luxury) with vouchers for lunches and dinners to nearby wineries and restaurants
- A kitchen experience with the chefs of Frasers – and then sit down and dine with them
- A dozen bottles of fine wine – The Director's Dozen
- A Kailis Geometric Sliding Pearl Bracelet.

Headlining the culinary side of the event are renowned chefs Chris Taylor - Executive Chef, Frasers Group, Rhys Jones - Head Chef, Frasers, Greg Farnan - Head Chef, Bluewater Grill Steakhouse, and Brendan Pratt - Head Chef, Indiana.

For more information about the event please visit the Banquet for Babies website:

www.wirf.com.au/banquetforbabies

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Background: The Women and Infants Research Foundation is Western Australia's leading independent research institution dedicated to improving the health of women, infants and reproductive health. We have a proud 40-year history of scientific discovery and public health achievement centred on the eradication of disease and the reduction of illness in women of all ages and babies.