

Unmasking the Unknown – Lifting the Lid on Lupus

May 10th has been designated World Lupus Day – to raise awareness of a disease which is estimated to affect 1 in 700 Australians – primarily women.

Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease which causes inflammation of various parts of the body, especially the skin, joints and kidneys.

Despite common misconceptions that a diagnosis of “Lupus” is not necessarily a serious one, the reality is the disease can have severe repercussions on the quality of life for sufferers, often inhibiting their ability to work, and in some cases, even proving fatal.

The Lupus Association of NSW is holding an Open House on May 9th to help “lift the lid” on this little recognised disease, and to explain what it means to be diagnosed with the disease.

Immunopathologist and Fellow of the RCPA, Dr Stephen Adelstein, will be presenting on the realities of Lupus, and the direction of new research into the disease and its diagnosis.

“It is hoped the outcome of the research will be able to help sufferers predict and manage flare ups, as well as eventually determining susceptibility,” says Dr Adelstein.

Executive Officer of the Lupus Association of NSW, Ben Jackson, says greater recognition of Lupus is essential to help “lift the lid” on the disease, and to help bring greater assistance to sufferers.

“We’re delighted to say that the Member of Parliament, Maxine McKew, will also be participating in the Open House, recognising long term members, volunteers and corporate supporters,” says Jackson.

“Her support will be beneficial in helping to raise awareness of the disease.”

The Open House will be held at Hook House, 55 Wicks Rd North Ryde from 1pm on Friday, 9 May.

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