



14 Nov 2017
Daily Telegraph, Sydney

Author: Rose Brennan • Section: General News • Article type : News Item
Audience : 232,067 • Page: 16 • Printed Size: 94.00cm² • Market: NSW
Country: Australia • ASR: AUD 4,442 • Words: 218 • Item ID: 873282765

 isentia.mediaportal

Licensed by Copyright Agency. You may only copy or communicate this work with a licence.

Page 1 of 1

Biobank a deposit in our future

ROSE BRENNAN

MILLIONS of specimens of human tissue, tumour cells, DNA and blood are to be stored in NSW with the largest biobank in the southern hemisphere opening its doors to researchers across the world.

The new \$12-million facility is expected to attract interest from international researchers as well as leading experts in Australia. The specimens will be donated by patients who give their consent for their blood or DNA to be kept on ice for decades and used for important medical research.

The samples are open to any researcher who wants to apply for their use such as those studying population health issues, dementia or brain cancer.

NSW Health will work with the 45 and Up study to collect blood from those participants while they're also looking at providing research samples from children and parents.

Chief Health Officer Dr Kerry Chant said if researchers discover that a specimen indicates a patient has a life-threatening illness or genetic predisposition to an illness they will be informed.

The specimens will be stored at -196C.

"If people expect better health outcomes in the future than we really need to embrace involvement in medical research be that clinical trials or donation of bio specimens," Dr Chant said.

Health Minister Brad Hazzard said the biobank will change the way life-threatening illnesses are treated.