

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HEART FOUNDATION'S LIFE SAVING WORK

1961:

The Heart Foundation establishes the first cardiac assessment centre and begins work that will see many thousands of Australians helped back to useful and enjoyable life, and in many cases, useful employment. By 1974, when the Heart Foundation begins handing over cardiac rehabilitation services to government health authorities, it will have aided 15,000 coronary patients.

1964:

Heart Foundation completes an initial survey of cardiac surgery in Australia. This is the first time in the world the amount of heart surgery required by a community is measured.

1965:

Heart Foundation-funded research into the care of sufferers of heart attack leads to the concept of intensive coronary care. Ten years later, a study of 4,000 patients in 25 hospitals reveals hospital mortality has dropped from 40 per cent to 20 per cent.

1968:

The Heart Foundation introduces the concept of one-week public awareness campaigns. Heart Week has been running for more than three decades.

1972:

Prompted by major cardiac problems in the community, the Heart Foundation initiates research into high blood pressure and atherosclerosis.

1977:

Heart Foundation initiates the Hunter Valley Heart Attack Study recording every case of heart attack occurring in the region of 600,000 people.

1979:

Five year national resource project on incidence and effects of high blood pressure is launched by the Heart Foundation. The one million dollar Australian National Blood Pressure Study involves screening more than 80,000 people in four Australian centres.

1980:

The Heart Foundation completes data collection phase of first nationwide study of the prevalence of risk factors for heart disease in metropolitan centres. This is followed up with similar studies in 1983 and 1989 to assess degree to which trends in death rates are associated with changes in risk factor prevalence.

1983:

Launch of Jump Rope for Heart in Australian schools to encourage Australian children to be more active. Over the past 24 years, more than 8 million young Australians will learn about physical activity and heart health through this program.

1984:

The Heart Foundation alerts public to dangers of passive smoking with a public information campaign: So you think you're a non-smoker.

1989:

Launch of The Tick Program to help Australian shoppers make healthier food choices easier choices. Within just five years, the program will have the support of more than 120 companies and the Tick will appear on over 600 products. It has considerable influence on improving the availability of healthier foods in Australian supermarkets and stores.

1993:

Final stages of 10 year study coordinated by the World Health Organisation and supported by the Heart Foundation looking at trends and determinants for cardiovascular disease in 40 centres and 27 countries.

1994:

A Morgan Omnibus Survey of 1200 adults confirms that the Australian public regards the Heart Foundation as Australia's most credible health organisation.

1997:

The Heart Foundation-managed LIPID (Long-term Intervention with Pravastatin in Ischaemic Disease) Study clearly demonstrates that the cholesterol lowering drug, Pravastatin, can significantly reduce coronary events, stroke, and coronary and total mortality. This seven-year trial was the largest clinical trial of its kind in the world

1998:

Another innovative change was the launch of our information service, Heartline in 1998. We provide free information on any heart health issue and over the years it has grown from 50 calls a day to 350 calls a day. Trained professionals will answer any of your queries on the prevention and management of cardiovascular disease.

2005:

This year, the Heart Foundation is funding more than 150 research awards in over 30 research centres in every state and territory in Australia. Together with its funding partners, the Heart Foundation is investing \$8.1 million in cardiovascular research to advance our understanding of the causes, treatment, diagnosis and prevention of heart, stroke and blood vessel disease and improve the lives of Australians. We're also undertaking significant work into battling obesity and overweight, which has reached epidemic proportions and is a risk factor for heart disease.