



# New hope over Crohn's

## PROFESSOR'S HOSPITAL TEAM TO STUDY POSSIBLE TREATMENT FOR DISEASE

**Alicia Tetley**

BANKSTOWN Hospital will be home to one of seven research centres in a new worldwide study to assess a potential new treatment for Crohn's disease.

The study, conducted by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), is seeking at least 30 Australian patients with moderate to severe Crohn's disease.

Bankstown Hospital associate Professor Rupert Leong said the prevalence of the disease, combined with

its health and economic impact highlights the need for cost-effective interventions that improve sufferers' quality of life.

"Crohn's is a lifelong condition," he said.

"It also tends to be a hidden disease which isn't talked about.

"As the disease is often diagnosed in young people, it may result in decreased education or employment opportunities and could affect forming long-term relationships."

The potential new medicine is said to possibly

make life much easier for Crohn's patients.

It is hoped the medicine could be more cost-effective than current treatments.

"People with Crohn's disease can feel really sick," Mr Leong said.

"They may need to go to the toilet 20 times a day, they can't work and they suffer extreme abdominal pain. That's why new treatments are so sorely needed."

Bankstown Hospital is the only hospital in NSW that will be conducting the study.



Professor Rupert Leong and his team will research the new Crohn's treatment.

Picture: CARLY EARL

### WHAT IS IT?

- Crohn's disease is an inflammatory bowel disease and is characterised by chronic intestinal inflammation
- It is a condition that affects more than 28,000 Australians and is difficult to manage
- It occurs equally in men and women and usually appears for the first time in patients under the age of 30.

### TAKING PART

How you can be a participant:

- For more information on the study visit [clinicaltrials.gov](http://clinicaltrials.gov) or phone 1800 800 285.
- People who participate in the trial will have their condition monitored by specialist gastroenterologists and receive study treatment for up to five years following the study
- The study treatment is an oral tablet.