

That's Italian Amore!



Heart to Heart: Mr. Famularo (left) and Mr. Romeo explain Amici Del Cuore services to patient Lidia Stuccio.

A heart attack survivor has turned a terrifying ordeal into a life-long commitment.

Antonio Famularo, President and Founder of the Associazione Amici Del Cuore (Friends of the Heart Association) provides support and understanding to the Italian community admitted to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital with life-threatening heart problems.

Greenacre resident Mr. Famularo said he established this association after his heart attack 10 years ago.

"I had to have a triple bypass and although I had lived in Australia for more than 30 years and had the support of my

family, I wished there was someone to talk to who knew and understood my fears", Mr. Famularo said.

Mr. Famularo and colleague Giuseppe Romeo, who suffered a heart valve leak last year, visit Italian heart patients and help guide them through what can be a traumatic experience.

Associazione members reveal how they regained their health by listening to doctors, eating well and exercising.

Chester Hill patient Lidia Stuccio, 73, said she was relieved to have club members shepherd her through a "frightening" heart bypass operation.

"I look forward to

their visits when I can talk in Italian which is easier for me, and tell them how I am feeling", Mrs. Stuccio said.

Nearly half of all deaths in Australia, 43 per cent, are from heart-related diseases.

In NSW that figure jumps to an alarming 50 per cent.

The Associazione Amici Del Cuore has already raised \$2,000, and aims to increase its funds for life-saving equipment at RPA's Cardiology Department.

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