



Digestive diseases professor seeks poo donors to help cure patients

Jillian McKee, Inner West Courier Inner City
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THE Centre for Digestive Diseases is in desperate need of your poo. And while it might be a little awkward — it could actually save a life. The Five Dock Clinic centre is running low on stool donations, which they treat and develop into capsules to treat help those with various gastrointestinal diseases.

Donors will need to provide a number of samples by dropping them off to the clinic, but they will be compensated.

The Centre of Digestive Disease medical director Professor Thomas Borody said the capsules could help change lives.

“Stool donations are processed by mixing fresh stool with a stabilising solution, then freeze-dried and the powder placed into capsules,” he said.

“They have a higher concentration of healthy bacteria, which is necessary to treat the diseased bowel.

“A diverse bacterial community full of good bacteria is needed to overtake the bad bacteria that may be causing the illness,” Prof Borody said.



Professor Borody is leading the stool transplant trial in Five Dock. Picture: Craig Wilson

Dean Morton is a patient at the centre and said donations had transformed his life after he was diagnosed with colitis last year.

“In August last year I was in a real low state, I was going to the toilet up to 12 times a day and lost 8kg in six weeks — I was basically bed bound with stomach cramps,” he said.

“I have a wife and three daughters with the youngest under two — it really limited my ability to be a good father and I had to take time off work.”

Mr Morton said he missed out of taking his children to the park because he always had to be able to reach a toilet within seconds.

After visiting the digestive centre last year Mr Morton was put on his first round of capsules that he said changed his life.

“After a few weeks it was pretty much back to normal but I have been feeling better and better,” Mr Morton said.

“Donating could be a bit awkward but think of it like giving blood — in some cases it might be a life saver and the donations allow people to get their lives back.”

For more information on donating call 9713 4011.