

# Pioneers of the poo business

ALEX WARD

FIVE DOCK is the centre of the universe for an area of medicine which rarely sees the light of day.

The probiotic therapy research centre is pioneering treatments for various bowel infections or, in Prof Tom Borody's words, "we do shit ... and we're leading the way".

The centre is part of Five Dock's Centre for Digestive Diseases and celebrated its 10th anniversary recently.

The centre is developing a treatment for colitis, a chronic inflamed bowel, and pioneered research in faecal transplant or "trans-poo-sion".

"This method is saving people's lives and there's no published complications," Prof Borody, the founder and medical director said.

"There's still a long way to go in research but it's been giving some patients great results."

Colitis causes severe cramping pains, diarrhoea, vomiting, blood and an estimated 50,000 Australians suffer from it.

Bacteria from poo transplants is used to replace infected bacteria in the patient's bowel.

Donors deliver fresh stools every morning.

"Donors poo on cue," he said.

"I saw a child who after seven infusions stopped bleeding, vomiting and started eating like a horse and dancing again."

"That's why I do medicine."



Tom Borody and Sharyn Leis at the Probiotic Therapy Research Centre, Five Dock.

## American epidemic

- Poo transplants are used to cure patients who have chronic relapsing *Clostridium difficile* that occurs when competing bacteria in gut flora have been wiped out by antibiotics
- It's become an epidemic in America, killing about 300 people every day



Centre's chocolate 'poo cake'

## Happy birthday

- THE Five Dock centre:
- Researches, diagnoses and treats gastrointestinal conditions
  - Has 42 staff
  - Has two operating theatres
  - The probiotic therapy research centre is on Level 1, 229 Great North Rd, Five Dock. Visit [cdd.com.au](http://cdd.com.au) or call 9713 4011