

# MEDIA RELEASE



Government of South Australia  
Children, Youth and Women's  
Health Service

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## Unique artwork set to help genetic research

**The Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation has entered into an exciting partnership with world renowned Australian 'Surrealist' artist Maitre Glen Rowan.**

Part proceeds from the sale of 100 of Glen's Limited Edition prints of his painting Encore! Encore! are being donated to support genetic research at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Head of Genetic Medicine Professor Eric Haan AO says that the money will help in the development of new tests to identify genetic diseases.

"We are in the process of applying new testing technology to diagnose genetic diseases like Duchenne muscular dystrophy more quickly and more accurately," Prof Haan said.

"This test, called MLPA, has cut the time to establish whether someone carries a mutated gene for Duchenne muscular dystrophy from two weeks down to 24 hours. Using the test, we can also pick up changes in the gene that could not be detected with the old technology.

"For women who could be carriers of the mutated gene, this is already providing definitive answers and avoiding prolonged anguish over their genetic status.

"However, getting such tests to the stage where they can be used routinely requires extensive research and development, for which we need considerable funds and we are delighted that Glen Rowan has chosen to support genetic research at our Hospital," Prof Haan said.

Proceeds from the sale of the paintings will also assist in the development of other genetic tests used to identify the cause of intellectual disability which also have the potential to become routine tests.

Information about the paintings and purchase details can be found on the Hospital website at [www.wch.sa.gov.au/support/currentsupport.html](http://www.wch.sa.gov.au/support/currentsupport.html).

Duchenne muscular dystrophy is a severe muscle disease with progressive weakness. Only males are affected with females carrying the disease. Its onset is in the first few years of life and by the time the affected male child is 12 years, he is likely to need a wheelchair. Few affected boys survive beyond 30 years of age, dying from muscle weakness linked to respiratory failure and heart failure. There is no cure.

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To organise interviews with Prof Haan please contact:

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