



**This is what you can offer to local lives:  
A gentler diagnosis. More precise surgery.  
A quicker recovery.**

Please donate to fund world-class robotic surgery right here in the North, and help people in your community, like Rex.

Rex isn't a man you'd think would worry about anything. He's bold, talkative and proud to be part of the community here in the north.

But he told us he was scared, thrown into a world of uncertainty and tests, when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer at 69 years old.

*"It was a nasty cancer," Rex told us. "They thought it had spread."*

But Rex didn't have to fear for long. Because Rex was a candidate for a new type of surgery. One that would be more precise, more likely to save his life, and reduce his recovery time.

It's called robotic surgery – and I need your help to fund it for more people like Rex.

Rex's surgeon, Dr. Dennis Gyomber, told him the robotic surgery was the *"Rolls-Royce of treatment."*

Rex immediately understood what that meant. A better, safer, more precise operation to remove his prostate. *"You just felt you were in really, really good hands,"* he said.

***"But what I'm looking at now... it just goes to another level. At a public health system, it's remarkable."***

We have made a promise on behalf of our entire community to raise \$500,000 to help fund this life-saving robotic surgery machine – which is why I'm writing to you today.

**Please donate today to help to fund world-class robotic surgery at Northern Health, and save the lives of more local people like Rex.**

The surgical robot is the 'Rolls-Royce' of surgery because it enhances the skill of our brilliant surgeons. It gives them perfect 3D vision and tiny, steady robotic hands that can move in ways human hands can't.

It also stops the impact of having an entire human hand and equipment within your body – something that can really long out recovery time.

In short, it's a world-class surgery advancement, that can protect limitless local lives.

The result for Rex was astonishing. After traditional surgery, Rex would have been in the hospital for almost a week to recover. **With the help of robotic surgery, he went home the very next day.**

Rex has had other major surgeries in his life, but he says this was different. *"I've had two open-heart surgeries," he told us. "But what I'm looking at now... it just goes to another level. At a public health system, it's remarkable."*

**For too long, getting the best medical treatment has depended on your postcode. I don't think that's fair.** Nobody should face the extra stress and cost of travelling for hours when they're sick.

The surgical robot I'm asking for your help in funding will close that gap in care. It's not just for cancer, it can help people with endometriosis, hernias and more complex gastrointestinal issues. I'm sure you can think of someone near to you that could benefit – if not yourself.

Having this kind of surgery available at Northern Health will mean the safest, most precise surgery will be available right here, close to home – thanks to you.

People in the public health system deserves the same advanced care as those in private health. **If you believe in health equality, please donate now, and help to fund robotic surgery in the North.**

To understand the massive impact your gift can have, and all the ways the robot can help improve health outcomes in your community, it's important you hear from the surgeon who was there for Rex.

Dr. Dennis Gyomber is our Divisional Director of Surgery, and he sees the real-life impact of this technology every single day.

*"For me, this robot is about one thing: equity," Dr. Gyomber says. "It's about giving our community access to the same high standard of care you would find in the biggest city hospitals.*

*"For years, if patients in the north wanted robotic surgery, they had to bypass our hospital and go elsewhere. That is not something we can accept. We must be able to service the needs of our local community."*

I know from your past gifts that you care about people in the north getting the same level of care as everywhere else in this city.

You are already helping to improve health in your community. I hope that you will build on the progress you've made and help to bring us to the forefront of patient care.

**Please donate again today, and show that you share Dr. Gyomber's vision of equity and better outcomes for local health.**

**The technology that you can help to fund today will help us to build towards a healthier future for people in the local area.**

Dr. Gyomber shared, *"each year, we expect more than 200 patients to benefit. We can use it for complex cancer surgeries, prostate, kidney, bladder, lung, and even some gastrointestinal cancers. The precision is unparalleled, allowing us to remove the disease with greater accuracy."*

*"It's not only for cancer," he stresses. "This will help women suffering from endometriosis, a condition that causes chronic, debilitating pain. We can perform complex hernia repairs, treat organ prolapse, and even offer life-changing obesity surgery. It opens up so many possibilities for so many different people in our community."*

**Will you please help to fund this life-changing robotic surgery? Give today to help bring world-class healthcare home for people with cancer, endometriosis, hernia and prolapse.**

As well as funding the world-class tools with your donation today, you'll help to attract global talent to your local hospital.

Top young surgeons train on robotics overseas, and they want to work where they can use their world-class skills.

By funding the robotic surgery, you can help to bring the very best surgeons in the world right here to Northern Health. And you can help them be trained by our very own Dr. Gyomber – as the robot even has a training mode!

Dr Gyomber explains how your donation can help to make the best surgeons, even better.

*"We have a dual console. This means I can sit beside a trainee surgeon, guiding their hands and teaching them in real-time on a live case. We are training the next generation of surgeons right here in Melbourne's north."*

**I'm just going to reshare Dr Gyomber's points quickly – by funding the surgery robot today, you will help to improve healthcare equity.**

**You will help people with all kinds of health needs to get the precise surgery they need, close to home.**

**And you will help to train the next generation of healthcare talent, and bring them home to the North.**

For Rex, that looked like a more precise surgery that prevented him from having to go through months of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. He knows this surgery saved his life.



As he finished telling me his story, his voice broke. He was welling up with gratitude. *"It is emotional,"* he said. *"I just think it's life-changing. What the experience I've had gave me... it gave me more life."*

When we asked Rex what he would say to someone thinking of donating, he didn't hesitate.

*"Donate as much as you can,"* he told us, his voice full of passion.

Government funding does not cover this kind of advanced medical equipment. We rely entirely on the generosity of caring people like you.

**Your Christmas gift of a kind or an incredibly compassionate will help to fund this world-class machine.**

Your gift will mean the next cancer patient can get home sooner. You will help a mother recover from endometriosis with less pain. You will give the next man like Rex the greatest gift of all – their life back.

Please, help us keep our promise this Christmas. Fund world-class robotic surgery, to protect local lives.

Thank you for your kindness.

Yours sincerely,



**Chris Harding**

Director, Northern Health Foundation

P.S. Rex said his robotic surgery "gave him more life." Please give \$50, a very kind \$150 or an extra special \$220 today to help fund robotic surgeries and bring world-class robotics home, to protect local lives.