

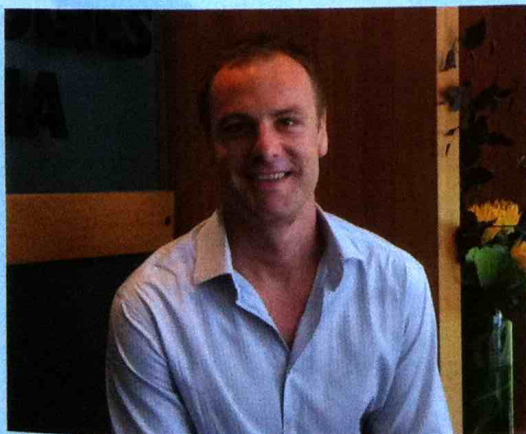
## LIFE CHANGING SURGERY FOR YOUNG SPORTS FANATIC AT PRINCE OF WALES PRIVATE HOSPITAL

A unique neurosurgical procedure at Prince of Wales Private Hospital has allowed a young sports fanatic with a spinal injury to return to an active lifestyle.

Nat McLay, aged in his 20s, was forced to retire from first grade Rugby Union three years ago after injuring a disc in his cervical spine.

Nat also gave up his passion of surfing when the injury caused constant pain and weakness down his arms.

Last November thanks to the latest innovation in artificial disc replacement and Neurosurgeon Dr Ralph Mobbs, Nat underwent a life changing procedure and was able to return to work the following week.



*Nat McLay has recovered*

"The procedure has given Nat full movement in his neck as well as loss of pain and weakness in his arms," said Dr Mobbs.

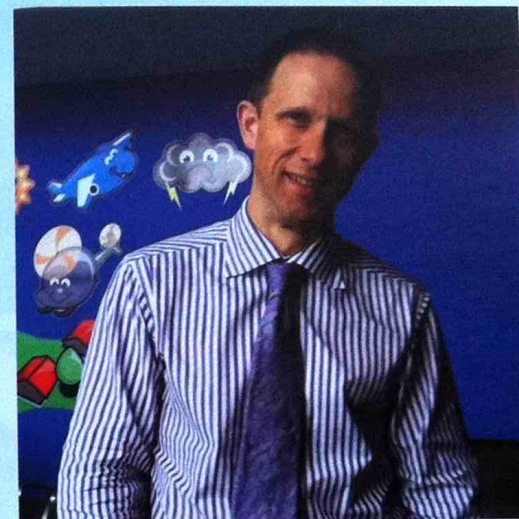
"He will be able to return to the surf within three months of the operation and is expected to be able to play football again. This result wouldn't have been possible five years ago," he explained.

Using a procedure that is new to Australia, Dr Mobbs removed the degenerative cervical disc and replaced it with the M6 prosthetic disc.

"The M6 disc is able to mirror the normal biomechanics of a native disc like nothing else on the market," said Dr Mobbs.

Previously Nat's only option would have been disc decompression or fusion, causing loss of neck mobility and the risk of increased degeneration in neighbouring discs.

Cervical disc degeneration is a common form of neck pain and stiffness. It can significantly impact lifestyle and restrict vigorous activities.



*Dr Ralph Mobbs*

While cervical disc degeneration more often occurs in older patients due to wear and tear, younger patients like Nat can acquire the condition through injury.

"I am so grateful to be able to get full movement back in my neck. For someone who is very active and under 30, this is a huge benefit," said Nat.

Nat contacted Dr Mobbs in January to report he was fighting fit and doing well post surgery, so much so he didn't feel the need to return for a follow up assessment.