

**DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE**  
Monday, July 27 at 8pm on ABC1



**Meet Dr Michael Buist who has a unique perspective on both sides of the hospital curtain, having almost died twice due to medical mishaps. He is on a mission to reduce the number of unnecessary deaths in hospitals world-wide.**

As a medical student, Dr Michael Buist survived a lung tumour that went undiagnosed despite an x-ray. Last year, a routine operation for appendicitis left him on the brink of death. A last-minute phone diagnosis from his obstetrician brother probably saved his life.

'I had an overwhelming feeling I was going to die. I put together what my brother had said and I looked at my stomach and said...get the f\*\*ing surgeon I am bleeding,' he recalls.

As an intensive care specialist in a busy Melbourne hospital, Dr Buist freely admits that health care can be a dangerous business. Ten percent of people entering hospital can expect to suffer an adverse event and of that figure, another ten percent will die or have a serious disability as a result of an adverse event. Dr Buist is living proof of these statistics.

"If you do the maths on that, that is one in a hundred... actually quite big odds", he says.

Galvanised by his own personal experiences, Dr Buist has emerged as a world leader in the push to improve patient care with a range of thought-provoking ideas designed to improve patient safety inside hospitals and reduce human error.



*Australian Story* follows Dr Buist at a time of major change in his life during his finals weeks at Dandenong Hospital, where he has been in charge of the intensive care unit for 13 years.

Aside from almost losing his life, Michael and his wife Sarah lost their child in the late stages of pregnancy. These two events are the catalyst for Michael and Sarah to move to a new life in Tasmania.

Happily, Sarah gave birth to two healthy twins in early July, who feature at the end of the story.

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