

# News Bulletin

March 2010

## **New surgical option for heart patients**

Cardiothoracic surgeons at Cabrini have recently taken delivery of the latest surgical instruments to establish a minimally invasive mitral valve surgery program.

Surgeons can now repair or replace the heart's mitral valve through a small incision between the ribs without the need to fully open the chest. Patients experience less pain after the operation, faster recovery and less scarring.

The mitral valve is one of the four valves in the heart. It has two leaflets that regulate blood flow in a forward direction through the heart. If the mitral valve becomes narrowed or leaks, it needs to be repaired or replaced.

The treatment of heart disease is a major focus of work at Cabrini with 500 surgery cases and 2,300 procedures performed every year. Heart disease is the reason for 35% of all hospital admissions at Cabrini.

Heartbeat Cabrini generously donated \$50,000 for a full set of instruments – 15 in total. Heading the program are Cardiothoracic Surgeons Randall Moshinsky, Michael Rowland and Justin Negri.