



774 ABC  
Melbourne

Media Release

**For Immediate Release**

**Friday 05<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

***Hamish's Heart - A special four part radio series with 774 ABC Melbourne's Raf Epstein***

774 ABC Melbourne is proud to broadcast a very special four- part series with Drive presenter Raf Epstein who takes you inside the operating theatre while a young Melbourne man receives a heart valve transplant.

From Monday 8 February to Thursday 11 February, listeners can follow the journey of Hamish's life - changing surgery at 5.30pm.

"My entire life I've been the kid who... I'd rather spend time inside with a book or something. Maybe I've used my condition as an excuse to just to stay home. Once it's all healed I want to get out there more, go for runs, go down to the beach," said Hamish.

Born with a leaky aortic heart valve, Hamish has lead most of his 18 years avoiding contact sport and other activities most of us take for granted. He, and his family, has lived each day knowing that some day, he would need major surgery to correct his "dodgy" valve.

Drive presenter Raf Epstein discovered that following Hamish through this operation has been one of the most remarkable stories of his Walkley award winning journalist's career.

"This is really quite extraordinary, underneath all the lights and the technology and blue cloth and the gloves and masks and equipment is Hamish' beating heart - that's actually one of the most remarkable things I think I've ever seen," he said.

Hamish's family has always known the moment of the heart operation would come. His mother, Georgina speaks to Raf about the journey.

"When Hamish was born and they told us very quickly that there was a heart issue, we tensed, we worried like any parents, but we went, we're going to find out, we're going to live with this, we're going to trust him and back ourselves. You have to trust. You have to trust the doctors and we trust the hospital."

The compelling four-part series begins Monday 8 February and continues to Thursday 11 February on Drive with Raf Epstein on 774 ABC Melbourne.

#HamishsHeart #774drive

<http://bit.ly/hamishsheart>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-11/swapping-heart-valves/7073114>

Donor Tissue Bank of Victoria: <http://www.dtbv.org.au/>

ENDS

*For more information please contact: Natalene Muscat (media) m: 0417 192 540 e: [muscat.natalene@abc.net.au](mailto:muscat.natalene@abc.net.au)*