



Media Release

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Premmie Tom beats the odds

When Tom Roach was born 11 weeks early, he weighed less than a kilo and doctors gave him a three percent chance of survival. Despite spending the first 290 days of his life in intensive care at the Women's, tiny Tom beat the odds.

In fact, since his premature arrival in June 2008 Tom, now aged two, has amazed everyone with his energy and zest for life. He enjoyed a recent family holiday during which he saw Paris from the top of the Eiffel Tower and visited London's Buckingham Palace.

His parents, Jen Williams and Andrew Roach, call him 'a statistical miracle'. Tom has battled chronic lung disease and pneumonia that nearly claimed his life at 15 months. Until recently he needed a feeding tube and oxygen. But the feeding tube was removed in July, he now eats five meals a day, and he only uses oxygen at night.

Doctors expect Tom's physical development will match his peers by the time he is aged five. "Whenever there's a challenge he beats the odds, he's so determined," Jen said.

Tom's parents will be remembering his months in hospital during National Premmie Week, which starts on Sunday 14 November.

"We have plenty of reasons to celebrate the special week," Jen said. "If it wasn't for the care and attention at the Women's during Tom's first months, it could have been a very different story.

"Not many babies can claim their first home was the Women's, nor that they grew up being loved by so many people.

"When we are out and about we are often greeted by members of the Women's staff who say hello and ask after Tom. He is a very lucky boy," she said.

"We just want people to know how grateful we are to everyone at the Women's including Tom's paediatrician Dr Lisa Fox."

For more information visit: www.thewomens.org.au

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