

## 'Weighting game' over for obese adults with FDA expansion of gastric band use

The US FDA has just followed Australia's lead in the battle of the bulge by endorsing the gastric band for use in obese adults with a Body Mass Index (BMI)\* as low as 30 and one obesity-related condition.

Australia was the first in the Asia-Pacific region to recently endorse the gastric band for use in people with a BMI over 35 or a BMI greater than 30 with at least one serious, obesity-related condition.

For the first time, adults across the whole obesity spectrum who have failed conventional weight loss measures (diet, exercise and medication) can access this clinically effective, long-term, weight loss option.

To learn more, speak to the following people:



### THE FACTS

- More than 3.5 million Australians are obese.<sup>1</sup>
- Twenty-six per cent of males and 24 per cent of females are obese.<sup>2</sup>
- Obesity can lead to serious health consequences, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke), high blood pressure, stroke and some cancers.<sup>3,4,5</sup>
- Obesity can impede a person's health so seriously that the disease is considered to be more damaging than smoking and alcohol abuse.<sup>6</sup>
- If the prevalence of obesity continues to grow, it is estimated that 7.2 million Australians will be obese by 2025.<sup>7</sup>
- More than 11,000 gastric banding procedures were performed in Australia last year.<sup>8</sup>

\* BMI is measured by body weight (in kilos) divided by height (in metres squared). A BMI of 25 – 30 is considered overweight, while a BMI >30 is obese.