



**WAIMR's Professor Lyle Palmer (left) with former West Coast Eagles footballer Brett Heady, wife Andrea and daughter Maddison (aged 4) from Joondalup.**

Leading WA health experts claim a major study proposed for Perth's northern suburbs could lead to the treatment and prevention of many common diseases such as cancer, heart disease, asthma, obesity and diabetes.

The Joondalup Family Health Study, based on the successful Busselton Health Study, will be run by the University of WA and the WA Institute for Medical Research and will monitor thousands of adults and children over the age of six in the region.

Participants will be asked to voluntarily supply information about their lifestyle and diet, undergo health checks including eye, heart and lung function and have blood tests which need to be repeated every three years.

The information will be used to trace the link between people's genetic make-up and common diseases like cancer and asthma and the role social and environmental issues play.

WAIMR's Professor Lyle Palmer said it was an exciting time to be

## Joondalup study may help prevent major diseases

looking at the determinants of these complex diseases.

"We just sequenced the human genome a few years ago and we have all sorts of new tools, technologies and understanding that we can throw at this problem that we didn't have two years ago," Professor Palmer said.

The project, which is expected to cost up to \$4 million, has the backing of WA health leaders including Nobel Prize winner Professor Barry Marshall, Australian of the Year Dr Fiona Wood and the WA Health Department.

AMA (WA) President and Joondalup resident Dr Paul Skerritt said the study also had the full support of the association. He has promised to take an active role in the project.



**Dr Peter Thompson with AMA (WA) President Dr Paul Skerritt who agreed to some preliminary testing.**



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