



By TROY DODDS

THE Nepean Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Parents' Support (NNICUPS) group will be the big winners from a special event held at Krispy Kreme's Penrith store on Tuesday night.

The local store – which was the first Krispy Kreme store opened in the country a few years ago – held a 'Dough-nation Night' in support of National Premmie Day, which has become an important awareness campaign.

The main aim of NNICUPS is to provide emotional support to the families affected by premature births and in raising funds, help purchase vital monitoring equipment to save premature babies and help them grow into healthy, strong youngsters.

Members of the group swapped places with Krispy Kreme staff on Tuesday and served behind the counter.

President of NNICUPS Carolyn Blake said the Dough-nation Night was a fun activity and a great way to make people aware of this worthy cause.

"On Tuesday we served doughnuts with 50 per cent

of sales made going towards the National Premmie Day cause," she said.

"We encouraged everyone in the area to come down and buy some doughnuts to show their support of these families who go through the trauma of having a premmie baby."

Over 850 babies each year require care at Nepean Hospital, making National Premmie Day particularly relevant to the local area.

It's not too late to show your support for National Premmie Day, with another event to be held at the Nepean Hospital foyer on Tuesday, June 19.

A display table will be set up from 9.30am to promote the day while fundraising items will be on sale and a jellybean guessing competition will be held.

Newsreader Tracey Spicer, whose son was born premature, is a patron of National Premmie Day.

"My heart goes out to other parents who are thrown into the maelstrom of having a premmie baby," she said on the National Premmie Day official website.

"Some families spend months by the bedside of their tiny offspring, wishing and praying they will make it through."