LIVING DONATION AND THE AUSTRALIAN PAIRED KIDNEY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

August 2016

The Australian Paired Kidney Exchange (AKX) Program increases live donor kidney transplants by identifying matches for patients who are eligible for a kidney transplant, and have a living donor who is willing but unable to donate because of an incompatible blood type or tissue type. This is known as paired kidney exchange or paired kidney donation.

As at 31 August 2016 the AKX Program has resulted in 177 successful live kidney transplants.

The increase in AKX outcomes contrasts with the overall decline in living donation outcomes since 2009.

The OTA is continuing to work with the AKX Program, the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Renal Transplant Advisory Committee (RTAC), and the RTAC/AKX Clinical Oversight Committee to expand the living donor pool and provide more Australians with access to kidney transplantation.

AKX Transplants

Living Liver and Kidney Donors

How does AKX work?

The AKX Program uses a computer program to search a database of registered recipient/donor pairs to look for combinations where the donor in an incompatible pair can be matched to a recipient in another pair. If the computer finds a compatible match, two or more simultaneous transplants can occur by exchanging donors. A simple two-way exchange is shown: