

REASONS WHY CONSENTED DONORS DO NOT PROCEED TO DONATION



Australian Government
Organ and Tissue Authority



In a number of cases where family consent is given, donation does not proceed for a variety of clinical and logistical reasons.

Optimising opportunities for donation requires timely determination of the possibility of donation. Determining the possibility of donation is complex and involves assessment of the donor's suitability and the suitability of particular organs for transplantation. It also relies on finding a suitable match with a potential recipient for donation to proceed.

When a person dies in a situation where they can potentially become an organ and/or tissue donor the possibility of donation is raised with the family.

In 2016, 1,041 families were asked to confirm whether their loved one was willing to be a donor of which 626 families consented to donation. Of the consented donors, 142 did not proceed to donation.¹

2016

1,041

families were requested to consider organ and tissue donation

626

families consented to donation

142

consented donors of which did not proceed to donation

The DonateLife Audit captures data on the reasons why consented donors do not proceed to donation.

The reasons for consented donors not proceeding to donation in 2016 were:

	DBD	DCD	Total	Percentage of total
Planned donation after circulatory death who died outside the time limit	0	49	49	33%
Medical contraindication discovered during consideration of donation	20	22	42	29%
No suitable recipients	12	11	23	16%
Refusal by the Coroner/Pathologist/ Designated Officer	4	0	4	3%
Other reasons	10	19	29	19%
Total number of reasons (number of cases)	46 (43)	101 (99)	147 (142)	100%

Notes

DBD: Donation after brain death is organ donation after death has been determined on the basis of irreversible cessation of all brain function.

DCD: Donation after circulatory death is organ donation after death has been determined on the basis of the irreversible cessation of circulation of blood in the body of the person.

In some cases more than one reason is given to explain why donation did not proceed. This is why the total number of reasons can exceed the number of cases. In other cases, the reason is not recorded and the total number of reasons can be less than the number of cases.

The Organ and Tissue Authority, in partnership with the DonateLife Network and the transplant sector, is working to minimise the number of cases where consented donors do not proceed to donation through the development of: national early donor referral and suitability assessment guidelines, improvement of organ matching processes, regular review of medical suitability criteria and assessment processes, and review and implementation of donor management protocols.

¹ Figures for DonateLife Network hospitals. Across all hospitals 646 families consented to donation from an estimated 1,074 requests.