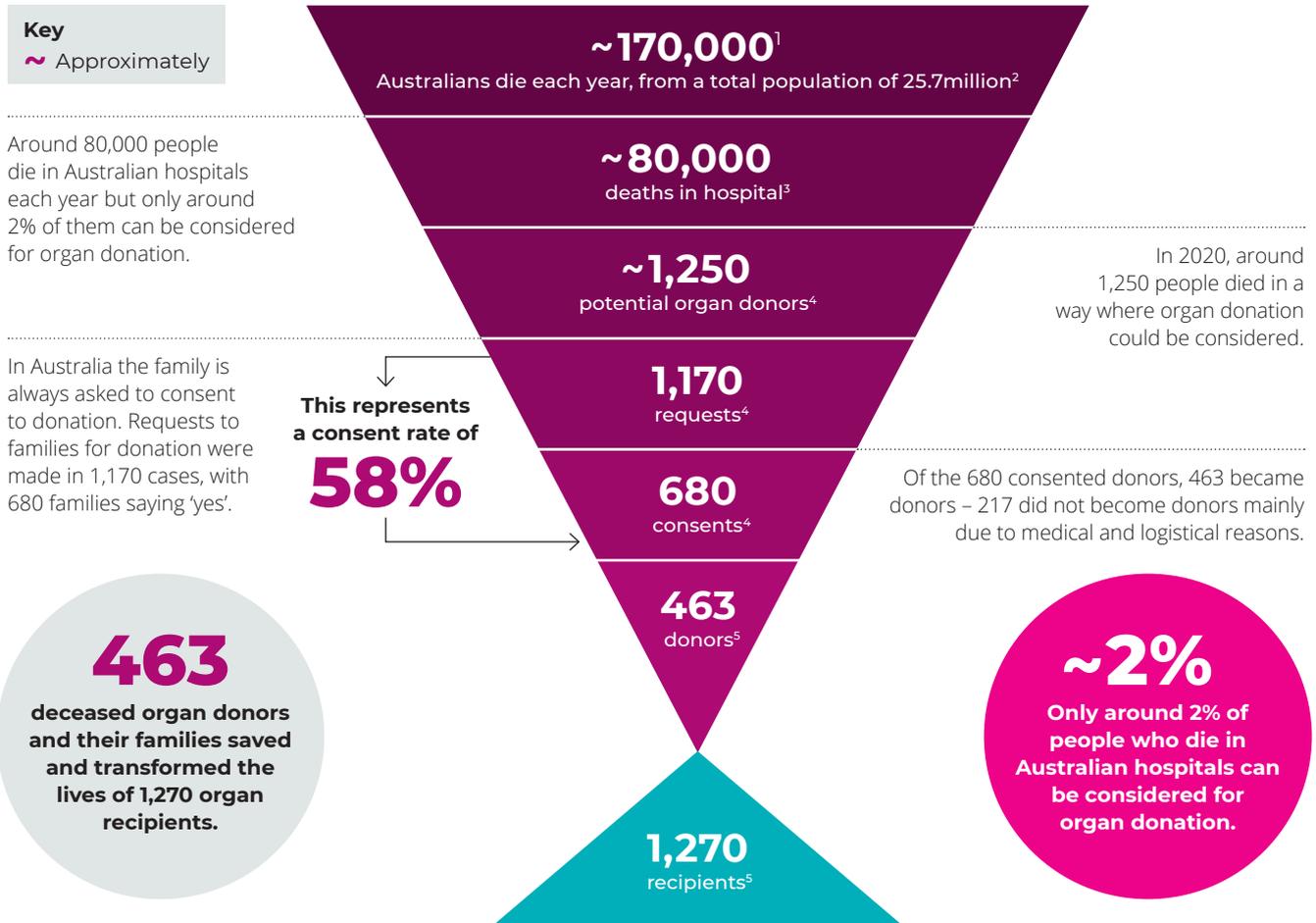




# Australia's potential deceased organ donor population and transplantation outcomes



## Organ donation is a rare event.

**Not everyone can become an organ donor when they die. To be an organ donor, a person must die in a hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) or emergency department (ED) and be medically assessed as suitable to donate organs for transplantation.**

- ▶ With donation possible in so few cases, and with so many people needing an organ transplant, it is vital more people say 'yes' to donation.
- ▶ There are some medical conditions, such as active cancer, which may mean the patient is not a suitable organ donor.
- ▶ There are currently around 1,650 Australians waitlisted for a transplant and more than 12,000 additional people are on dialysis – many who may need a kidney transplant.
- ▶ Many more people can become eye and tissue donors. Eye and other tissues can be donated up to 24 hours after death, and donors do not have to die in a hospital.

### Sources

**1** Australian Bureau of Statistics. Causes of death, Australia, 2019 (Released 23/10/2020).  
**2** Australian Bureau of Statistics. Estimated Resident Population, 30 June 2020 (Released 17/12/2020).

**3** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2020. Admitted patient care 2018–19: Australian hospital statistics. Health services series no. 90. Cat. no. HSE 225. Canberra: AIHW.

**4** DonateLife Audit, February 2021.

**5** Deceased organ donation in Australia, Australia and New Zealand Organ Donor Registry, January 2021.