

# 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 medical 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 2017, requests were made to 1,093<sup>1</sup> families to confirm whether their loved one was willing to be a donor with 642 families consenting to donation. Of those consented donors, 132 did not proceed for a variety of medical reasons.

2017

1,093

families were requested to consider organ and tissue donation

642

families consented to donation

132

consented donors unable to proceed to donation

	DBD	DCD	Total	Percentage of total
Planned donation after circulatory death who died outside the time limit	0	63	63	44%
Medical contraindication discovered during consideration of donation	16	25	41	31%
No suitable recipients	5	7	12	9%
Other reasons	5	11	16	12%
<b>Total number of reasons (number of cases)</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100%</b>

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 2017 were:

#### 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.

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.

<sup>1</sup> Estimated from 2017 DonateLife Audit