



**Australian Government**  
**Organ and Tissue Authority**



**Register  
to be an  
organ and  
tissue  
donor**



## Register to be a donor

Register to become an organ and tissue donor by filling in the online form at [donatelife.gov.au](https://donatelife.gov.au). The Australian Organ Donor Register is the only national register for people to record that they want to be an organ and tissue donor. **It takes less than a minute to register** – all you need is your Medicare card number. You have to be 16 years and older to register.

- ✓ Take a minute to check if you're already on the register.



## Talk with family and friends

It's important to tell your family and friends you want to be a donor. In the event of your death, they will be asked to agree to you becoming a donor. In Australia, family consent is always sought before donation can proceed – even if you are registered.

Over 90 per cent of families agree to donation when their family member is on the donor register. This drops to just five in 10 when the family is unaware what their family member wanted.



## What is organ and tissue donation?

Organ and tissue donation is a medical process that can save and transform the lives of many Australians who need a transplant. Donation involves removing organs and tissue from a person (a donor) and transplanting them into someone who, in many cases, is very ill or dying (a recipient).

More information on how donation works is available at **[donatelife.gov.au](https://donatelife.gov.au)**.



## Why is organ and tissue donation important?

Transplantation is not possible without organ and tissue donation. An organ donor can transform up to seven lives and a tissue donor can transform many lives. There are around 1,400 Australians on the wait list for a life-saving transplant and a further 11,000 people on dialysis. Some Australians die waiting for a transplant. Some spend weeks or months in hospital, with others making several trips to hospital every week for dialysis or other treatments.

# Myth

## Myth

**I'm not healthy enough to donate because of my lifestyle choices.**

## Myth

**If I am a registered donor, the doctor won't try as hard to save my life.**

## Myth

**I'm too old to be an organ and tissue donor.**

## Myth

**Organ and tissue donation is against my religion.**

## Myth

**It's my choice – I don't need to discuss it with my family.**

## Myth

**Organ and tissue donation will disfigure my body.**

# Fact

## Fact

→ People who smoke, drink or have an unhealthy diet can still donate. You don't have to be in perfect health to save lives.

## Fact

→ The doctor's first priority is always to save your life.

## Fact

→ Age is not a barrier – people over 80 have become organ and tissue donors.

## Fact

→ All major religions support organ and tissue donation as an act of compassion and generosity.

## Fact

→ Your family needs to know. They will be asked to consent to you becoming a donor in the hospital.

## Fact

→ Organ donation is treated like any other operation in a hospital with a highly skilled surgical team. The donor is treated with the greatest care and respect.

## How do I register on the Australian Organ Donor Register?

You can:

- + fill in the online form at
- + use your Medicare online account through myGov
- + use the Express Plus Medicare mobile app
- + call **1800 777 203\***
- + fill in the linked **form** and mail it, or
- + scan the below QR code.



### For more information

Online **donatelife.gov.au** or  
**humanservices.gov.au/organdonor**

Email **aodr@humanservices.gov.au**

Call **1800 777 203\***

TTY **1800 810 586\*** (hearing and speech impaired)

TIS **131 450\*\*** (Translating and Interpreting Service)

\* Call charges apply from pay and mobile phones only

\*\* Call charges apply



### Who is DonateLife?

Led by the Organ and Tissue Authority, DonateLife is the network of DonateLife Agencies (one in every state and territory), State and Territory Medical Directors and hospital-based medical and nursing specialists in organ and tissue donation. Together we deliver the Australian Government's national program to improve organ and tissue donation and transplantation outcomes in Australia.

To contact DonateLife in your state or territory please visit **donatelife.gov.au/about-us/donatelife-network**