

DonateLife BOOK OF LIFE

A collection of life-saving and life-changing stories from people touched by **organ and tissue donation.**





Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Foreword to the DonateLife Book of Life

by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

As the inaugural DonateLife Ambassador, I have been privileged to observe the impressive leadership of the DonateLife team and agency network in managing organ and tissue donations throughout the country, and in educating Australians about the issues that are central to our decisions to give life.

Inspired by the work of these outstanding professionals, the *DonateLife Book of Life* is a heartfelt appeal to all Australians urging us to find out the facts about organ and tissue donation, to make well informed decisions, and to discuss those decisions with the people close to us.

Here is a collection of stories from brave and thoughtful Australians whose lives have been touched and transformed by a donor's life-affirming decision. These honest and grateful accounts pay tribute to the generosity of lives tragically and abruptly ended: the ultimate act of giving life to another as one's own life passes.

The *DonateLife Book of Life* starts its journey around Australia in DonateLife Week, Sunday 20 to Sunday 27 February 2011, a campaign led by the Australian Government's Organ and Tissue Authority to raise donation awareness among Australians and to increase our donation rates.

It is my hope in 2011 that, as these stories are shared across the nation, many more of us will be moved to think, talk and act on a decision that can help bring life and healing to thousands of Australian lives.

This is a decision for all of us and each of us. We share life and we share a capacity to give life. Our personal experiences of living and giving are most powerfully told through our stories. This book is our carriage and our conduit for ensuring that our decisions bring the greatest good to the greatest number in the Australian community.

We are forever indebted to those Australians who have chosen to give life. They have made their mark in the most profound ways and the *DonateLife Book of Life* bears their courageous stamp.

May these pages travel far and deep across our generous land.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE CANBERRA ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA
TELEPHONE +61(2) 6283 3525 FACSIMILE +61(2) 6283 3595

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2011

**Organ and tissue donation
for transplantation is based
on the concept of altruism.**



I should be so lucky

It was ANZAC Day 2001 when I was rushed to hospital with agonising pain in my right flank. After some tests the emergency doctor informed me that I had polycystic kidney disease (PKD). This was what had eventually killed my grandmother, father and his three sisters. I was devastated and felt like I had been given a death promise.

On returning home I was monitored very closely for the next seven years, then it was decided that I simply couldn't hold off any longer and needed to go onto peritoneal dialysis. That became a bit of a nightmare for me. My diaphragm was perforated and the fluid was leaking into my lungs. The doctors decided to perform a pleurodesis which basically glued up my lungs and stopped the leakage.

The procedure worked well and I continued with my work thanks to the exceptional support from my new employer. I dialysed four times a day and did one of the exchanges during my lunch break in a quiet corner of the lunchroom. My husband, and then one of his sisters, tried to be a donor for me but both were ruled out through medical reasons of their own. If it hadn't been for the stringent testing they went through they wouldn't have known about these problems.

My younger sister in the meantime received a kidney from her husband and my older sister had also commenced PD. There are about 20 other members in our family who also have PKD so the hope of any relatives being donors was almost nil.

I was put on 'the transplant waiting list' and received a phone call at 11:30pm one night to say that there was a kidney available.

Did I want it? Did I what! How lucky was I? I recovered so quickly I was amazed—as were the staff at the hospital. I was discharged on the fifth day after the transplant.

I cannot thank the donor or their family enough for the gift they have given me. To those who are waiting, don't stop praying—it will happen.

Noelene



Noelene

In 2011
337 organ donors gave
1001 Australians
a new chance in life



Mr Darcy's generous act of love

Terry was a decent family man, a fine lawyer and a respected politician. In 2007 when he died of heart failure while cycling at Red Hill he was an ACT Supreme Court Judge. He didn't expect to die and had much to live for. His daughters Lara and Maddy turned 15 and 14 years old two and five days later, and it would have been his 50th Birthday on Valentine's Day 2008, and soon after his 20th Wedding Anniversary.

Terry and his wife Helen discussed and agreed a few years earlier that they would be organ and tissue donors and placed their names on the register. They believed it was something (like mutual wills) that they should do as responsible partners and parents.

Helen said that 'the donation of Terry's corneas improved the life of another person who was in pain. As I said at his funeral, Terry had the most soulful brown eyes, my own Mr Darcy. The recipient of his corneas appreciates them as a priceless gift, but also as a modest one, because it didn't save lives. His tangible generosity gave our family some sense of meaning for his death, and our decisions were made more easily, as we knew his wishes. We drew strength from the fact that his death followed his optimistic approach to life: he made a positive difference to individuals and society at local, national and international levels.'

'Many people have asked if there is anything practical they can do to honour Terry's memory - I hope his example will inspire others to talk to their family and register as donors, if they feel that it is the right decision for them to make. Talking openly about this special issue is not depressing - it's an act of love.'



Terry

**Any day is a good day
to talk about organ
and tissue donation.**



A liver recipient

I received a liver transplant because I have a very rare disease called Wilson's Disease. Six months after my 25th birthday someone noticed the whites of my eyes were yellow. Six weeks later I was in a coma in hospital with complete liver failure and only days or hours to live.

The doctors decided to risk giving me a liver transplant and a donor liver became available. It worked. I awoke 24 hours after surgery after being in a coma for ten days. I had lost 30–40 kilograms in weight, spent several weeks in intensive care and had no strength. I could not even roll over in bed.

I was discharged six weeks later and went home where I promptly caught pneumonia and had another four weeks in hospital. But my strength was slowly returning and I went back to university and played sport. I even went skydiving again.

In the many years since my transplant, I have competed at the Australian Transplant Games and been fortunate enough to represent Australia at the World Transplant Games.

I completed my PhD in 1992 and now work as a medical researcher. Few people, including medical practitioners, can tell that I have had a liver transplant. I do normal things (except I don't drink alcohol) and best of all, I enjoy the

gift (of life) that I have been given. I have fewer days off sick than most of my work colleagues.

I am extremely thankful that the donor's family considered and consented to organ donation when their relative died. I have written to my donor family to thank them, but of course no words are enough. My living a full life is the best way I can think of to thank the donor and their family.

Even though it is now more than 20 years since my transplant, every year, on the anniversary of my transplant, even though I don't know the name of my donor or what they looked like, I remember my donor and I thank the family for their decision.

Anthony



After transplant you can do anything

**If you want to donate life,
discuss it today, OK?**



The miracle of transplant

Transplantation really is an extraordinary miracle.

You have patients, who are so sick and fragile while they are waiting for a new liver, then they have a transplant and a few months later they are at home cutting the lawn or playing sport.

They're back doing the normal things they were doing before they got sick.

For every 10 patients who come to the Austin waiting for a transplant, three to four of them receive one.

The others will either get better under medical care or they die waiting for a transplant.

It is very frustrating for us to see people dying, but it is absolutely devastating for their families.

I find it extraordinary that, in their grief, families decide to donate at all.

I am always amazed by the process. There is something so fundamental about the gift of life.

By making that decision, you will be saving someone's or several people's lives.

The question should not be: 'Do you want to be an organ donor?' The question should be: 'Do you want to make transplantation available to everyone?'.

The body is made up of exquisite organs.

It is a great shame to waste them.



Prof Bob Jones is the Austin Health Liver Transplant Unit Director

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God I can't do this

I was 16 when I found out I had been born with one kidney in 1971. I became the first person to have a baby while on dialysis. Unfortunately Andrew only lived a few hours. Lisa came a few years later, and again only lived a few hours. I went along without dialysis until my kidney gave up and I had a shunt put in.

On Monday I awoke and went off to begin home training at hospital. Tuesday I was off again. I came home by myself on the train a complete wreck. I fell into my hubby's arms and cried and cried 'I CAN'T DO THIS'. That night I just kept begging God and saying 'I CAN'T DO THIS'.

Wednesday I was on my day off training. I was on my own just out of bed when the phone rang. The voice on the phone said I was needed at the hospital 'but it's my day off' I cried. 'We have a kidney for you, get in here as soon as possible, the surgeon is picking it up now.'

That was 32 years ago, and as they say 'THE REST IS HISTORY!'.

Since then I have competed in three World Transplant Games and five National Games including the inaugural one in Melbourne in 1988 for a total of 17 medals. I am not a sporty

person and never have been but a person's sacrifice has given me the greatest gift they could and I want the world to see what can be achieved through donation. I was 27 when I received this gift, I have had 32 extra years of quality life. Yes there have been ups and downs, but that's life anyway.

Barbara
Member of Transplant Australia



Barbara

Each year around
1,700 corneal transplants
are performed to give
the gift of sight.



Troy

Our son Troy, aged 33, contracted streptococcal meningitis through a simple earache.

Within 48 hours we were informed that Troy was brain dead.

The decision to donate his organs was made easier for us as we knew that Troy was a passionate organ donor who thought it would be a great idea for his dad and mum to become donors as well. Troy was always coming up with great ideas!

Troy's whole family and large circle of friends were devastated by his untimely death, but knowing that Troy was able to give seven people a better quality of life helped ease the pain of losing him.

We exchange cards via DonatELife with several of Troy's recipients. We are always happy to receive news of their progress and how their lives are going.



Troy

Faye and Les

Each year around
1,700 corneal transplants
are performed to give
the gift of sight.



A big thank you from the bottom of my new heart

Life. We wonder at its origins, we marvel at its complexity, we find peace in its beauty, yet we take it for granted.

I took my life for granted. Suddenly it became significant and my future became a mystery when I was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy. A career that was planned became early retirement at age 30. My wife Lorraine's plans for a child in five years became the need for a child now, so part of me could live on in a new life.

I was limited in what I could do and Lorraine did what I couldn't. She reduced work to part time so I could sleep when our new son Lochie needed to play.

Slowly, over a period of nine years, I became less able. I was dying. Fluid in my lungs made it a struggle to breathe. My muscles became weaker. Night time sleep was difficult because I was afraid of dying in the quiet darkness. Depression was with me constantly.

I couldn't take it anymore. I was assessed to be put on the transplant waiting list. This was the second time in my life a transplant was high on my agenda. When I was 20 years old I was in remission from Acute Myeloid Leukaemia and had to decide if I wanted a bone marrow

transplant. Back then I wasn't mentally ready and decided not to go ahead. However this time, I was ready. Also, I had no choice.

In the last days before the heart transplant, I wasn't me. My spirit was there hanging on by a mere thread, but I was ready to die. Everyone I knew thought the same and visited me in ICU to say goodbye although I was oblivious to it all.

After observation by the transplant team, I was taken off the list. My body wouldn't cope. However I somehow improved the next day and was put back on the list. Luckily, a heart became available and I had my operation.

Life has its ups and downs. It has its miracles. It has those who give miracles.

To my donor and their family—you gave me the miracle.

To Lorraine and Lochie—you are the miracles that keep me going.

To my doctors and medical team—you are the miracles who control and monitor my progress.

Without you all, I would not be here to marvel at life's miraculous beauty.

Grant

**Any day is a good day
to talk about organ
and tissue donation.**



It was really worthwhile

Approximately 12 months after the death of my wife from chronic renal failure, I discussed with my adult daughters the matter of organ donation. At that time a good friend was undergoing dialysis treatment. Not wishing his family to undergo the loss of his passing, I decided to donate a kidney.

Following stringent tests, doctors at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, agreed that my friend and I should 'give it a go despite our ages'. At the time, my friend was 74 years old. I was 76.

Because laparoscopic methods were reasonably new at that time and consequently there was a risk that the kidney may be damaged, I opted for the full open surgery. I thought it not worth the risk of donating a damaged kidney.

Early on the morning after our operation, my friend walked into my hospital room and said cheerfully 'the plumbing's working'. It is now some nine years and five months since that

day. Despite minor setbacks and the continuing problems associated with anti-rejection drugs, my friend is doing well.

I have absolutely no regrets—on the contrary, I am so glad he has been granted a better way of life. Personally, I have suffered no setbacks, and remain in good health with my eighty fifth birthday due in a couple of weeks. Physically, to this day I have felt no ill effects, I take no medication and truly would never know the operation had happened.

Throughout the period prior to our operation, we received wonderful support from the Renal Unit staff.

Both my friend and myself were given to understand we were Australia's oldest unrelated pair to undergo the [kidney transplant] procedure.

Mervyn



**If you want to donate life,
discuss it today, OK?**



A birthday wish comes true

When my son Reace celebrated his sixth birthday two years ago, he made a wish that I would get a transplant. Less than a week later, his wish came true when I received new lungs.

Reace claims responsibility for my luck and I agree he must have powerful wishes.

Before my transplant I had been so sick, I couldn't even walk from the couch to the front door without losing my breath—and it was only six paces.

Just before my transplant my lung function was only 10 per cent. Now the difference is so noticeable. My donor must have had a rip snorting pair of lungs. The transplant has changed my life.

I was born with cystic fibrosis and I was able to manage my condition without a hospital visit until I was 23. At 30 however, I slowly began to deteriorate and was listed for a transplant.

I started having 'tune-ups' once a year, then every six months, then every three months until I was basically living at the hospital and reliant on oxygen to survive.

Everyday tasks became impossible and I had to rely heavily on my family to help look after both Reace and myself.

I couldn't even have a shower because standing-up made me breathless. I couldn't brush my hair because lifting my arms above my head made me breathless. I couldn't walk to the fridge to get lunch because it made me breathless.

After four months on the transplant waiting list, I received the call to say a pair of lungs was available.

After my transplant, I felt better straight away. My first lung function test was 98 per cent, I couldn't believe it. I started to cry.

I was so used to being breathless that I didn't know any different. I had wondered what it would be like to be a normal person and now I know.

I can do everything a normal mum would do. Housework, work-out, take Reace to basketball and scouts. I can also get up in the morning, have a shower, brush my hair and get dressed without taking two hours.

I am extremely grateful to my donor and their family.

Lorinda



**Most religions support
organ and tissue donation
for transplantation**



Waiting for a transplant has cost me my job

I am waiting for a transplant to have a normal life again.

I was born in Hong Kong and came to Australia in 1984. I have been a nurse since 1973 working in Radiology and previously in Midwifery. I had to resign from my position as my disease got so bad.

I was diagnosed with Sjogren's Syndrome, an auto-immune disease characterised by dryness. It has affected my whole body including my glands and organs. As a result my kidney function has deteriorated.

Two years ago I was put on the organ transplant waiting list.

Every day since then I have had dialysis. I do this every night at home. There are many other people who have been waiting longer than me. This is my life now—it revolves around dialysis.

I had to give up work because I have very low blood pressure in the mornings.

I would really like to have my kidney transplant so I can live a normal life again.

I want to encourage Chinese Australians to donate their organs and tissue as they can help save lives in our community.

Teresa



Teresa with the DonateLife Book of Life

The most important thing
that helps a family's decision
is their knowing the donation
decision of their loved ones.



Gift of life

I was born with reflux so by the time I was 17 my kidneys had stopped working. I spent two years on dialysis. I had a transplant 24 years ago and am still going. I have had two beautiful children and no problems with my pregnancies.

I have my family and my health because of the special family who made a decision to donate their loved one's kidney to me. I am forever grateful and thank them every day in my prayers.

I believe in the power of positive thinking and have always taken care of my special kidney with just common sense. Lets all help by getting involved in any way we can.

Lina



**Any day is a good day
to talk about organ
and tissue donation.**



Thank you

After a long illness, I was lucky enough to have been offered a liver transplant. The medical team were wonderful, but they can only perform these life saving operations when they have donated organs to do so.

I have been so fortunate. I am well, and am enjoying life with my family, friends and two beautiful grand daughters. This would not

have been possible if someone out there had not made the difficult decision to donate. I will always be grateful, and I hope that the donor family have found consolation in the fact that they have given the chance of a second life to another.

Jeannie



Each year around
1,700 corneal transplants
are performed to give
the gift of sight.



Aileen's story

As a mother of three small children, contracting glaucoma and nearly losing my sight was rather traumatic. It left us wondering how we would cope raising a family and being able to give them all that was necessary with limited or no vision.

With expert medical care including trips to the eye hospital, my sight was saved and although far from perfect, being able to raise a loving family and enjoy our wonderful grandchildren has been precious.

I suffered a severe infection of the right eye following surgery which was necessary to control the glaucoma. The infection could mean possible total loss of vision and potentially the eye itself.

My eye went from what initially felt like a minor irritation to oozing pus and severe pain within 24 hours. My surgeon commented when he first saw me that he may not be able to save the eye, let alone the sight.

But, due to the skill of my ophthalmologist and donated sclera (the white of the eye), I still have an eye and some sight.

I am ever so grateful for the care received and particularly to the family of the person who donated tissue enabling me to still have sight and quality of life. What a wonderful gift it

has been to still be able to see the smiles on the grandchildren's faces, to appreciate lovely scenery, to be able to do housework and care for my favourite roses.

My husband and I are registered organ and tissue donors and our family are well aware of our wishes. We urge others to discuss organ and tissue donation and make a positive decision to help someone else in need.

Aileen



Aileen

**Any day is a good day
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Damian's gift of life

Damo was only 35 years old when he died. He was a loving husband, doting father, a son, brother and son-in-law. He was also a very accomplished police officer. He came out of that special mould that makes the best cops. He died doing what he loved.

Although his life ended a long time before it should have, how many people can say that they had it all. Our life was nothing special but we had each other and our children, our home and we were making plans for the future. All of that was taken away in an instant because Damo was doing what he loved best, 'catching the bad guys'.

Damian was ridiculously fit. It was nothing for him to go and run for a good hour and a half and cover a substantial distance. I would often ask where he was going just in case he didn't come home as planned. He wasn't training for anything in particular but he always felt the need to go to the gym and smash himself. He would come home dripping in sweat and stinking, then leave the gear he'd worn in the laundry sink for a couple of days for the smell to mature until I gave in and threw it in the wash.

We had never spoken of organ donation for him. I was always keen, 'If I can't use it and someone else can, please Hon, make the right decision,' I would say. I had signed up on the organ donation register but he hadn't. He didn't think there was any need.

Damo had attended an armed hold-up at a tavern, and being the cop he was, was the first one in. Unfortunately the offender had a shotgun that he wasn't afraid to use, not even on a 'cop'. Damo didn't stand a chance.

He died at the scene but was revived by his heroic partner. He came back because his heart was so strong and, I believe, because we didn't have a chance to say good-bye. Due to the nature of our job, we hadn't seen each other for nearly two days. This wasn't uncommon, just how it worked out.

Damo and I always went to work with the unspoken promise that we would come home to each other and the kids. Getting shot is always a risk of the job but we never spoke about it. It was always someone else's family on the news having to deal with the aftermath of a 'job' gone wrong.

When I was told how bad Damian's injuries were, the first thing I thought of was organ donation. Damo was so fit and healthy. I thought it would be a waste if he died in vain. That's why the decision to donate his organs was so easy. I thought if I could give someone else a chance at a full life then at least something good has come from this. I know that the recipients of these organs will be able to live a full and healthy life, and perhaps even 'have it all'.

Sonya



Damian, a loving husband and father

In 2011
337 organ donors gave
1001 Australians
a new chance in life



The best of the human spirit

Michael was just 33 years old when he died. A passionate country musician, he was driving to Tamworth for a gig with his band Southbound when he crashed into a tree and was thrown from the car. He sustained massive head injuries and died in hospital several days later.

Mike had everything to live for. A talented guitarist and songwriter at the peak of his career, his band had recently captured the attention of the country music industry with a TIARA (Tamworth Independent Artist Recognition Award). At the time of his death, he'd also just learnt of their nomination for a prestigious Golden Guitar award for a song Mike had written.

His passion for country music was equally matched by his love for the beach, surfing, his family and an enormous circle of friends. He always had a joke to share and a smile on his face—he was a guy who loved life.

As a family, it's no surprise to us that even in death, Mike has continued to make a difference to the lives of so many around him. We'd already discussed organ donation as a family and knew that Mike wanted to be a donor. While we didn't know at the time that circumstances would actually bring it to fruition, we're glad we had the opportunity to discuss it beforehand and were aware of his wishes.

Losing Mike has left a massive hole in our lives and we miss him every single day. But while nothing will bring him back, we are proud and thankful that his donation helped six people

with life saving transplants. In a way, it's helped us deal with our own grief to know something positive has come out of something so tragic.

Peter



Michael

**The majority of
Australians support
organ and tissue donation.**



The gift

My husband passed away in an accident. During his life he helped countless people and in dying he magnanimously donated his healthy organs to others desperately in need and gave seven people a second chance to live healthy, happy lives with bright futures.

The following is a poem I received from a lung recipient, who competed in the World Transplant games in Nancy, France in 2003.

Marie

The gift

It was not my birthday
but I did receive one.
The difference it's made to my life
is hard to believe,
I could hardly eat
sometimes could hardly walk.
Then there were other times
I couldn't even talk.

Then along came a stranger
with the best gift one could give
a new set of lungs
and now I can really live.
I feel for the family
the sorrow they must bear
their sadness I will share
the rest of my life.

They all now play a part
and for this I say thank you
from the bottom of my heart.



**Around 1600 people
are on official transplant
waiting lists at any one time**



Liver transplant recipient: Joy

I had liver trouble for 16 years and my specialist said there was nothing that could be done. I had a condition called Primary Biliary Cirrhosis and there was no cure for it. I had regular blood tests to monitor my liver function and I had to take Questran powder before each meal to stop my itching. I had a massive bleed when the enlarged veins in my oesophagus burst.

I was eventually put on the transplant waiting list but continued to have health problems. However, the hospital always took good care of me.

Four years later I got the call to come in for my liver transplant. I had managed to keep working right up to that day.

After my transplant I was in intensive care for two days and left hospital 19 days later in time to be home for Christmas with my three sons and two grandsons. I had a few little problems after my transplant. On day four of my transplant my liver rejected but the Liver Transplant Unit staff were able to reverse this and my liver is still working well. I was home for two weeks when I got an infection and had to spend two weeks in hospital again. I was able to go back to work two months after my transplant.

In the next two years I had another two operations when a few things went wrong, but again the hospital was great and fixed them up.

I worked full time for another 11 years then retired when I was 70 years old. I have now been home for one year as a full time carer for my partner who has ill health. I also baby-sit great grandchildren.

I was a very lucky person to have a second chance and receive a new liver.

Joy



Joy

**On average, people on
transplant lists wait between
6 months and 4 years.**



Imagine

Imagine you're 13 and someone said your mum was dying. Without a liver transplant she wouldn't survive till Christmas. Imagine knowing that to save your mum, someone would have to give the ultimate gift of life. This was my family's reality some years ago.

As Mum's condition grew worse, she clung to the life she had left, but slowly it was slipping away. Then at midnight we received a call that changed our family forever as a donor liver had been found. Mum went straight into surgery and it went well. While there were still many posttransplant challenges, Mum met them all and returned to near perfect health.

This moment forever changed my life. Between the dedication of Mum's medical team and the courageous and selfless gift of life from the donor family, I wanted to give something back.

In 2005 at age 15, I saw the Tour de France and an idea hit me—a ride to raise awareness and get people talking about organ and tissue

donation. Two years later I completed the inaugural Awareness Ride during Australian Organ Donor Awareness Week, cycling over 1,800km and raising much needed awareness. Then in 2009 another cycle ride took me from Cairns to Brisbane, helping to further spread the word about organ donation.

Recently Mum needed another transplant, and again thanks to a kind selfless donor, one was found. They say each donor can help the lives of up to ten people and I knew that if I could change one person's perspective on organ donation, then indirectly, I might improve the lives of ten.

I encourage everyone to think about organ donation and talk about it with your family. Imagine if your discussion or decision resulted in saving one life, or even ten. To you, I'd be forever grateful.

Josh



Bryce Moorman (brother), Rick Moorman (dad), Josh Moorman and Sandi Moorman (mum).

The most important thing
that helps a family's decision
is their knowing the donation
decision of their loved ones.



Rebecca's story

Rebecca lived a very full life even though she passed away from a heart attack due to Type 1 Diabetes and Hyperthyroidism.

The day I had always feared had finally come.

Rebecca had diabetes from the age of seven and was continually in and out of hospital. Despite her illnesses and struggles she got on with life and drained every drop out of the short life she had.

Rebecca enjoyed socialising and having fun, while also getting into a spot of trouble here and there. In other words she was a typical teenager who introduced me to grey hair at a young age.

She had just become engaged to the man of her dreams and enrolled in TAFE. She was excited that her future seemed brighter than ever before.

During her many admissions into hospital we would spend a lot of time talking about what she wanted if she should die. As I am from a medical family we openly discussed issues such as organ donation. It was natural to talk about this with my own children and relatives.

It gave our family comfort to know that in her death an opportunity for a better life was given to four other people. Two kidneys and two corneas were donated.

I received a letter which made me smile from one of the recipients of a kidney. Hearing directly from a recipient really gave my family great comfort.

The Honourable Chris Hayes MP has shared Rebecca's story in Federal Parliament to highlight the importance of families talking about the issue. Rebecca's story helped to promote the importance of the Australian Organ Donor Register. While she is no longer with us her organs and her story continue to make a difference to many.

Debbie



Rebecca

Ask and know your
loved one's donation wishes





Australian Government
Organ and Tissue Authority



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Enquiries

If you would like to comment on the DonatLife *Book of Life*, or have any queries, please contact:

Organ and Tissue Authority
DonatLife *Book of Life*
PO Box 295
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Phone: 02 6198 9800
Fax: 02 6198 9801
Email: enquiries@donatlife.gov.au
Website: www.donatlife.gov.au

Alternative format

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