

“Organ donation is a very good thing”

Adam’s story

I am a Warlpiri man from Yuendumu (NT) and my wife is a Pitjantjara woman from Mimili (SA). I was born in Alice Springs and grew up with my family in Yuendumu. I went to school there and it was a good place, with good teachers and lots of friends. It is very sad that many of my friends from that time have passed away now.

When I got sick from liver disease I had no taste for food, I couldn’t sleep, and my mind was not right. I ended up spending a few months in Alice Springs Hospital with liver problems. A doctor there asked if I wanted to go to Adelaide to wait for a liver transplant. My family were very worried about me going to Adelaide but I made up my mind that I wanted to go – my spirit was telling me to go. I am lucky that I have strong willpower.

I had only been in Adelaide once before that time, on a school excursion. I stayed in Adelaide for ten months on a waiting list. Then one Sunday afternoon I got a phone call and I had my liver transplant on Monday morning.

After the transplant I got my health back and felt really well.

When I got out of hospital I got my driving licence back and I could drive all around the city in the busy traffic. I’ve had over eight

years of being well and travelling around to be with family.

When I was in Adelaide I gave some education talks about my life and experiences to doctors from all around the world. I would talk in Warlpiri language and then explain the words in English language.

The transplant has changed my life. I feel good, I enjoy my life. Now I have a bonus too – a little boy, my son!

Adam



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