



Organ and tissue donation

**Donate life and give our people
a second chance of life.**

Talk about it today

Have you ever thought about organ and tissue donation?

Donate life and give
our people a second
chance of life.

Did you know that our people are
more likely to be offered an organ
from our own people because they
will be a better match?

Yet aboriginal people often reject
organ donation for cultural reasons.

You know our culture will live
on afterwards, and you will be
helping our people to live on today.

Many of our people are
today on dialysis or awaiting
an organ transplant, and
have been for a long time.

It's important to make a decision
and to tell your family what you
would like to do if you are ever in
that situation. You know it's your
family who will give the final OK.

donatelife



This body is a miracle

I had a big family history with aunts and uncles all passing away before they were 50. They were fit one minute and then they were struggling to get around the next. I was always just so weak and sick.

I got so crook that the doctor had an ambulance take me straight through to Brisbane and I went downhill from there. This continued for four to five years.

I went for a check-up in 1994, I was in a room with other patients and the lights went out for me. The doctors worked on me for a long time. About a week later the head doctor came to me and said "you won't be going anywhere until you have a heart transplant"

I was put on heart transplant waiting list in November 1994. The time came when I was told that a heart was on the way for me. I was thinking of my family and I kept praying.



I knew everything was going to be alright. I believe I have been given a god given gift. From the night the heart was put in I have never had an ache in the chest or any part of the body. It's been 17 years.

There is a big family history of diabetes. I got very weak again and was told that the kidneys were no good. This was in about 2006. I started on Dialysis and wanted to get of the machine. Again I was on the transplant waiting list when I got the good news. I thanked God again when I got the kidney in 2010.

Two people and their families have allowed this to happen for me. I believe in God and my own strength. I wouldn't be here without those two families.



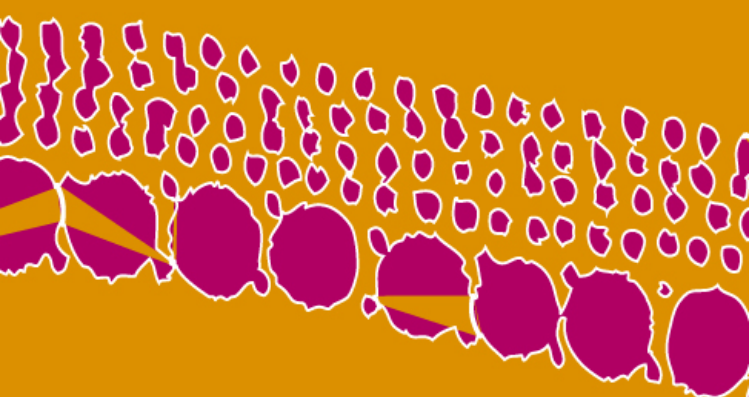
I wanted to be here for my kids

I didn't know I was sick. I just had a headache and went to see the doctor. That was about nine years ago. I found out my kidneys were no good and that I had diabetes.

I started haemodialysis straight away, and for about two years I was on the transplant waiting list. Then about five years ago I had two little heart attacks, and they have taken me off the waiting list now. I understood what the doctors were saying because it's a big operation, and anything could happen. I didn't want to take that chance, because I wanted to be here for my kids and I care for my two grandsons aged 13 and 17.

If I had received a kidney transplant I would not have to come to hospital three days a week and I would be out and about doing things. My eldest son offered to give me a kidney but the doctors said no, because he may also develop diabetes.

A lot of indigenous people are getting sick from different diseases. It's not good.



To donate life, know their wishes.
Ask them today.

OK



www.donateline.gov.au