



Organ donation process

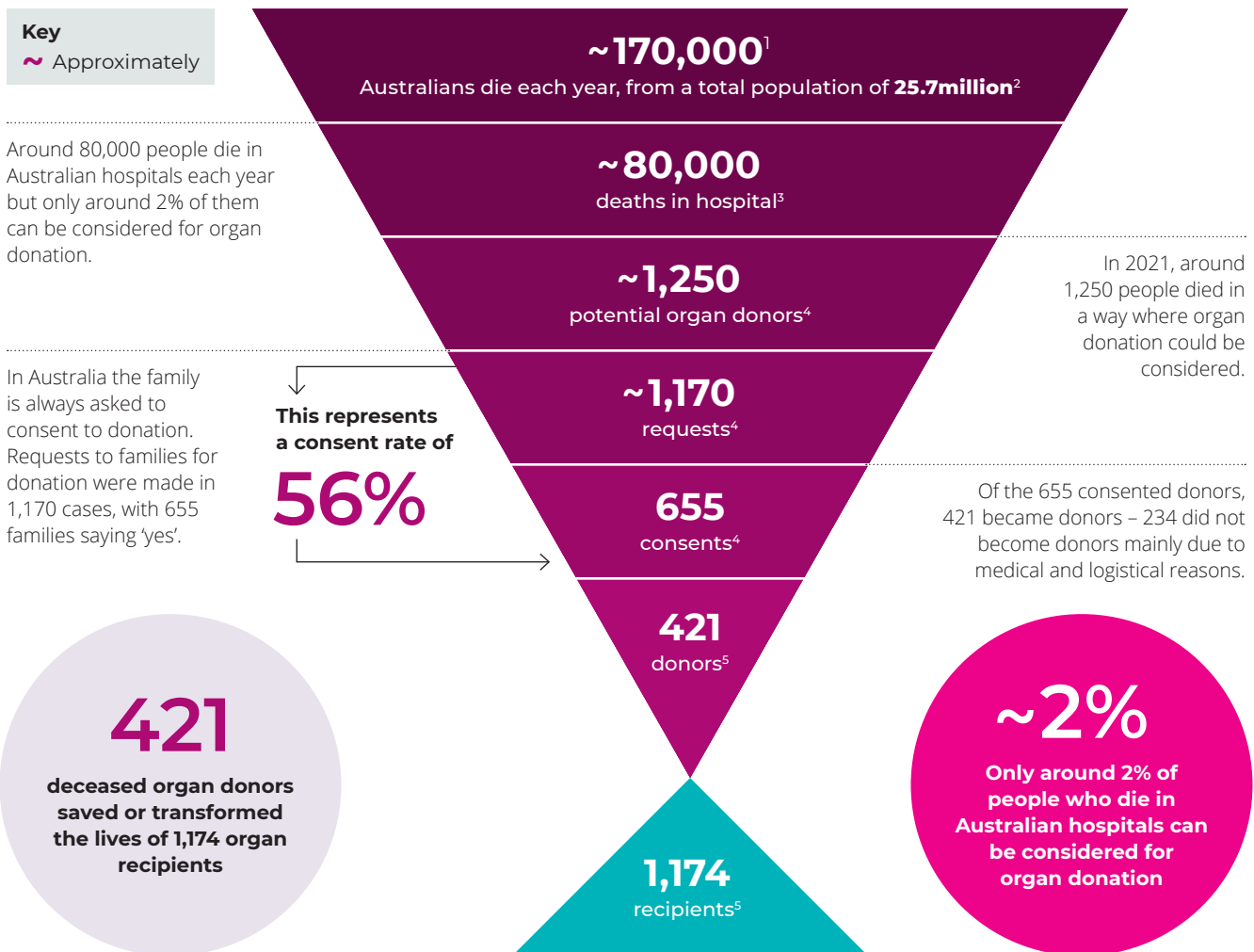
Organ donation is a rare event. Few people can become an organ donor when they die. To be an organ donor, a person must die in a hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) or emergency department (ED) and be medically suitable to donate organs for transplantation.

▶ Organ donation can only occur when someone dies in a hospital as organs need to be functioning well to be considered for transplantation.

▶ The final decision on medical suitability is made by the medical team at the time of donation and is influenced by the need of the potential transplant recipients. If a recipient is in need of an urgent organ then they may accept any organ on offer.

▶ There are currently around 1,850 Australians waitlisted for a transplant and more than 13,000 additional people are on dialysis – some of whom may need a kidney transplant.

Figure 6 / Australia's potential deceased organ donor population and transplantation outcomes



Sources

1 Australian Bureau of Statistics. Causes of death, Australia, 2020 (Released 29/09/2021).
2 Australian Bureau of Statistics. National, state and territory Population, 30 June 2021 (Released 16/12/2021).

3 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2020. Admitted patient care 2019–20 (Released 03/06/2021).
4 Donatelife Audit, February 2022.
5 Deceased organ donation in Australia, Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Registry, 15 February 2022.