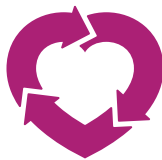




Australian Government
Organ and Tissue Authority



DonateLife

**REGISTER TO
BE AN ORGAN
AND TISSUE
DONOR**



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**.



WHY IS ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION IMPORTANT?

Transplantation is not possible without organ and tissue donation. One organ donor can save the lives of up to 7 people and help many more through eye and tissue donation.

There are around 1,800 Australians on the wait list for a life-saving transplant and a further 14,000 people on dialysis. For people on the waitlist, a transplant can be a matter of life and death. Some spend weeks or months in hospital, with others making several trips to hospital every week for dialysis or other treatments.



REGISTER TO BE A DONOR

You can register to be an organ and tissue donor at **donatelife.gov.au**. It only takes one minute to register – all you need is your Medicare card. Anyone aged 16 and over can register.



TALK TO YOUR FAMILY ABOUT DONATION

After you have registered, it's important to tell your family you want to be a donor. In the event of your death, organ and tissue donation will only go ahead with the support of your family. Medical teams will never proceed with donation if your family object. Each year, opportunities for transplants are missed because families aren't sure what to do.

Around 8 in 10 families say yes to donation in the hospital if their family member is registered. Only 4 in 10 families agree to donation when they don't know if their family member wanted to be a donor.

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 be considered for donation. You don't have to be in perfect health.

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 agree to donation 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 **donatelife.gov.au**



use your Medicare online account through myGov



use the myGov app



call **1800 777 203**



fill in the attached form and mail it

For more information

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

Email **aodr@servicesaustralia.gov.au**

Call **1800 777 203** or **131 202** to speak
to someone in your language

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

Who is DonateLife?

DonateLife is the Australian Government's national program to increase organ and tissue donation so that more people can receive a life-saving transplant.

To contact DonateLife in your state or territory please visit

donatelife.gov.au/find-your-local-donatelife-agency



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SCAN TO REGISTER

