

2019 Living organ donation and transplantation



Australian Government
Organ and Tissue Authority



Receiving a kidney or part of a liver from a living donor is an option for some patients with end-stage kidney disease or liver failure.

It offers an alternative to waiting on the national transplant waiting list for an organ from a deceased donor.

In 2019

3/10

organ donors were living donors.

In 2019

783

organ donors

548

deceased organ donors

239

living organ donors

A living organ donor is someone who donates a kidney or partial liver to another person; usually a relative or close friend who has end-stage kidney disease or liver failure. Occasionally some unrelated people also choose to become a living donor.

In 2019 there were 239 living donors – 238 kidney donors and one partial liver donor. The 238 living kidney donors included 49 donors through the Australian and New Zealand Paired Kidney Exchange (ANZKX) Program.

The ANZKX Program is facilitated by the Royal Melbourne Hospital. All other living donation and transplantation is facilitated by individual transplant units across Australia.

In 2019

239

 living organ transplants comprising

190

living organ transplants facilitated directly by individual transplant units

49

living organ transplants facilitated through the ANZKX Program

What is the Australian and New Zealand Paired Kidney Exchange (ANZKX) Program?

Some patients who are eligible for a kidney transplant are unable to receive a transplant from a willing living donor because their blood or tissue type is incompatible.

Paired kidney exchange increases living kidney transplants by matching pairs of registered donors and recipients. If a compatible match is found, two or more simultaneous transplants can occur by exchanging donated organs.

In July 2019 the Australian Paired Kidney Exchange (AKX) Program was expanded to include New Zealand and form the ANZKX Program. Expanding the number of pairs enrolled in the program increases the chance of finding a match with another incompatible pair and access to life-saving kidney transplants.

The lives of 335 Australians have been saved since the living kidney exchange program began in 2010.