In Australia the family is always asked to consent to donation. Requests to families for donation were made in 1,224 cases, with 756 families saying 'yes'. This represents a consent rate of 62%.

Around 80,000 people die in Australian hospitals each year but only around 2% of them can be considered for organ donation.

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Australia's potential deceased organ donor population and transplantation outcomes

- ~80,000 deaths in hospital
- 1,309 potential organ donors
- 1,224 requests
- 756 consents
- 548 donors
- 1,444 recipients

In 2019, 1,309 potential organ donors were identified. These people had progressed to end-of-life care in ICU or ED and were assessed as medically suitable to donate organs for transplantation following their death.

Of the 756 consented donors, 548 became donors – 208 did not become donors mainly due to medical and logistical reasons.

There were around 1,700 Australians waitlisted for an organ transplant at the end of 2019 and a further 12,000 on dialysis who may benefit from a kidney transplant.

With donation possible in so few cases, and with so many people needing an organ transplant, it is vital more people in the potential donor pool say ‘yes’ to donation.

If more people say ‘yes’ to organ donation, more transplants will occur.

Sources
2. DonateLife Audit, January 2020
3. Deceased organ donation in Australia, Australia and New Zealand Organ Donor Registry, January 2020