In 2011, 337 organ donors saved and improved the lives of 1,001 Australians; this is the highest number of donors since national records began. The 9% increase in 2011 built on the 25% increase in 2010, and represents a substantial 64% increase over the baseline (average 2000–2008) of 205 organ donors.

In 2011, there were 1,001 transplant recipients; this is the highest number of transplant recipients since national records began. The 8% increase in 2011 built on the 17% increase in 2010 and represents a substantial 47% increase over the baseline of 681 transplant recipients.

In 2011, there were 1,041 organs transplanted; this is the highest number of organs transplanted since national records began. The 6% increase in 2011 built on the 16% increase in 2010, and represents a substantial 45% increase over the baseline of 716 organs transplanted.
**Performance report 2011**

**Donation and transplant rates**

In 2011 Australia had a donor per million population rate (dpmp) of 14.9 dpmp. This result represents an 8% increase (1.1 dpmp) on the 2010 outcome of 13.8 dpmp and a 46% increase over the baseline of 10.2 dpmp.

The average annual donation rate growth over the first two years of the national reform agenda is 1.8 dpmp.

Using the international standard measure of organs transplanted per million population (otpmp), Australia achieved an outcome of 46.0 otpmp in 2011, representing a 5% increase on the 2010 outcome of 43.8 otpmp and a 30% increase over the baseline of 35.5 otpmp.

**Deceased donors by donation pathway**

In 2011, 75% (252) of deceased donors were realised from the Donation after Brain Death (DBD)* pathway, with the remaining 25% (85) from the Donation after Cardiac Death (DCD)** pathway.

In 2011 there was a 5% increase in donations realised from the DBD pathway and a 23% increase in donations from the DCD pathway when compared to 2010 outcomes.

The increase in deceased donors from the DCD pathway can be attributed to the implementation of the National Protocol for Donation after Cardiac Death across Australia. This increase supplements the increase in donors from the more prevalent Donation after Brain Death pathway.

**International comparison**

Australia's growth compares favourably with that of leading countries after the second full year of the implementation of a national reform agenda.

Australia's average growth of 1.8 dpmp compares well to Spain (2.0) and Portugal (1.9) and exceeds Croatia (0.8) and the UK (0.9).
Performance report 2011

Organs transplanted from deceased donors

Kidneys are the most predominant organ donated and transplanted. In 2011, 570 Australians received a kidney from a deceased organ donor. This was 4% higher than the outcome in 2010 (548), and 28% higher than in 2009 (446).

![Organs transplanted from deceased donors 2009–2011](image)

Australian Paired Kidney Exchange Program

The Australian Paired Kidney Exchange (AKX) Program commenced in late 2010. The AKX Program complements existing living kidney donor programs, and provides an opportunity for transplant to those patients who are unlikely to receive a transplant through standard programs, due to their highly sensitised antibody status.

2011 saw a significant expansion of the AKX Program, resulting in 23 additional kidney transplants. Eight (35%) of those Australians who received an AKX transplant had less than a 1 in 10 chance to receive a kidney as part of standard donation/transplantation programs.

The success rate of 23 actual transplants, from the initial 39 possible transplants in Australia, was one of the highest in the world in 2011.

The 16 individuals who did not progress to transplant did not proceed for clinical reasons.

![Australian Paired Kidney Exchange Program 2011](image)

Corneal donors and transplants

The 2011 provisional outcomes from the Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand, indicate a significant increase in corneal donors (20%) and corneal transplants (9%) compared to the 2010 outcomes.

![Corneal donors and transplants 2009–2011](image)
Australia’s potential donor population

Not everyone can be an organ donor as particular circumstances must prevail in order for a patient to be medically suitable for donation. Organ donation is only possible from a subset of end of life events that occur in intensive care units or hospital emergency departments. Potential donors need to be recognised as such, and if medically suitable, the family will be asked to confirm the wishes of their family member before donation can occur.

By way of example, in 2011 the Australian population was 22,620,600 with an estimated 146,500 deaths occurring. Of these, approximately 77,000 deaths occurred in hospitals with around 730 potential donors identified – around 1 per cent of the hospital deaths.

Requests to families for donation were made in around 680 cases, with approximately 390 families consenting to donation. In just over 50 cases where family consent was given, donation did not proceed for a variety of clinical reasons.

The resulting 337 deceased organ donors saved or improved the lives of 1,001 Australians in 2011.

Tissue donation

In 2012 the Authority is working with the tissue banking sector to establish an agreed performance data set and processes for reporting of tissue donation performance.

Definitions

* DBD: Brain death occurs when a person’s brain is so damaged that it will never function again. When doctors determine that a person in intensive care has died in this way, donation after BD can be considered.

** DCD: Cardiac death occurs when a person’s heart stops beating. When doctors determine that a person in intensive care will not recover and their heart will stop beating within 90min of removal of artificial support, donation after cardiac death can be considered.