In 2017 there were 273 living donors comprising 271 kidney and 2 liver donors. This is a slight increase from the total of 268 living donors in 2016 and a decrease of 9% from 2010 (300). The 271 living kidney donations included 48 donations through the Australian Paired Kidney Exchange (AKX) Program.

The AKX Program increases live donor kidney transplants by identifying matches for patients who are eligible for a kidney transplant, and have a living donor who is willing but unable to donate because of an incompatible blood type or tissue type.

The AKX Program has resulted in 246 successful live kidney transplants since commencing in 2010.

How does AKX work?

The AKX Program uses a computer program to search a database of registered recipient/donor pairs to look for combinations where the donor in an incompatible pair can be matched to a recipient in another pair. If the computer finds a compatible match, two or more simultaneous transplants can occur by exchanging donors.