



Opening remarks by Lucinda Barry, Organ and Tissue Authority Chief Executive Officer

Network Engagement Meeting, 2-3 June, 2022

It is very exciting to actually be here together – face-to-face — and have the chance to re-connect and meet those of you who have joined the team since we last met in 2019.

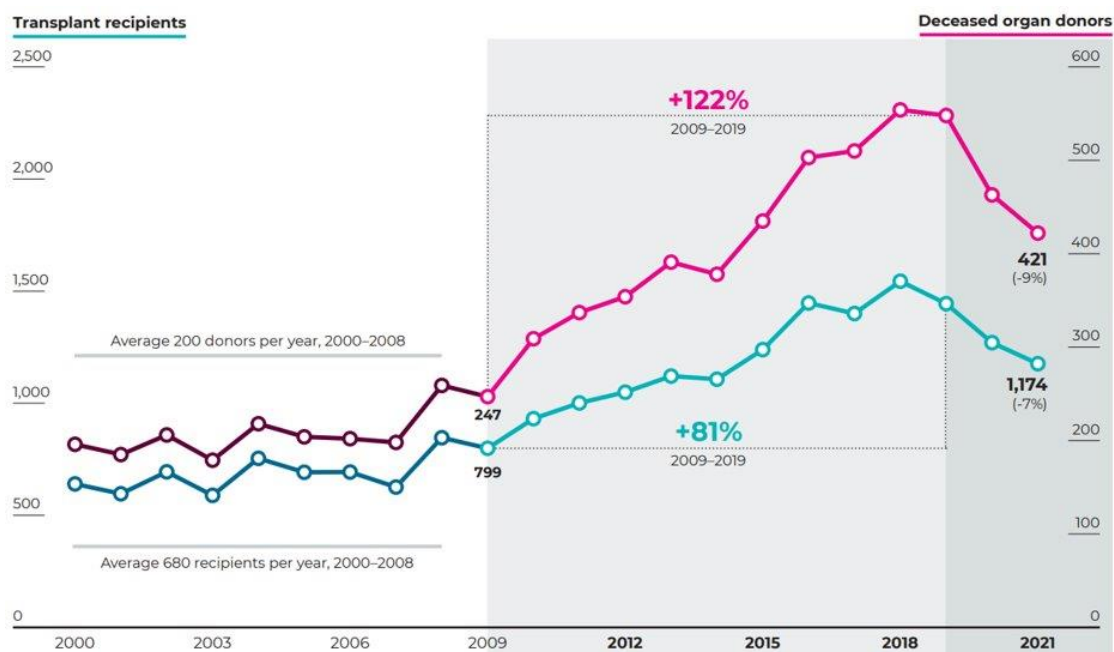
It has been such a challenging two years. It is something we could not have ever imagined. The pandemic impacted the national program and has also taken a toll on our personal lives.

It has not just been about navigating hospital restrictions, logistics, closed borders and staff shortages. It’s had an impact on the home front – being locked down in our homes, working remotely, parents trying to home school (and of course, who can forget the lack of toilet paper!) — and we are still juggling many of these factors as we move to ‘living with covid’.

The next two days will be a great opportunity to be together and to re-connect and rejuvenate. We will take the time to:

- celebrate where we have come from after more than a decade of the program,
- acknowledge the impacts of the past two years – whilst also looking at the positives and innovations that the pandemic created,
- and leave here knowing we are all in this together as team DonateLife – and we will continue to achieve great outcomes.

Trends 2000 – 2022



Reflecting on where we have come from - the national program has been a great success.

Rarely do you see such significant reform done well between the Commonwealth and the States — and then for the clinical program to be implemented across 95 hospitals is outstanding.

As you can see (in the graph above), within 10 years of the announcement, the number of organ donors had more than doubled. This is because of DonateLife!

And the outcome of this has seen the number of transplants increasing, with more than 1550 people receiving a transplant in 2019.

There are nearly 16,000 people who have received a transplant since 2009.

I know sometimes the focus seems to be just on the numbers — and yes, we have had a 25% decrease in organ donation during the last two years due to the pandemic.

But I stand here so proud of what was achieved over the past two years.

Due to all of your dedication and commitment, we were able to navigate the challenges, continue to make sure people had the chance to be a donor where possible, support families, continue to raise community awareness and achieve the greatest number of registrations last year.

Faced with some great challenges, the program kept going during the pandemic.

Everyone played a part in this, both those in the network and at the OTA — our medical and nursing staff, support and office staff, and the of course the Leadership team.

Our purpose

I believe the key to this success has been the commitment by everyone who works for DonateLife – to our purpose.

Everyone in this room and our colleagues who are can't be here, and those who have been a part of the team prior, we are all here for our very clear purpose: *to save and improve the lives of more Australians through organ and tissue donation and transplantation.*

We all know why we are here and why we are doing this. Every single one of you plays a part in transforming people's lives.

And we can directly see just how important this is.

The Call documentary

The Call documentary from WIN Network was then played for the meeting.



I am privileged to lead this program — a cause I am passionate about.

And I am fortunate to have you all. Not many other CEOs go to work knowing how dedicated their team is to making a difference.

It is true — leader is only ever as good as the team working with them, and I want to thank you!

I really hope you enjoy the next two days.