

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION — UNDERSTANDING THE FACTS AND BUSTING THE MYTHS



Organ and tissue facts and stats

- DonateLife Week (Sunday 28 July – Sunday 4 August) is Australia’s major public awareness week to encourage more Australians to sign up and support organ and tissue donation.
- We want all Australians to register as organ and tissue donors and be the reason someone else gets a second chance at life.
- Around 80% of Australians aged 16+ support organ and tissue donation – yet only 7 million are actually registered.
- There are currently around 1,800 Australians on the organ waitlist and 14,000 more on dialysis for kidney failure who need Australia’s help.
- Transplant recipients come from different backgrounds, and experience different health issues, but they’re united in their gratitude for donors and their families.
- Your family will always be asked to support your decision before organ or tissue donation goes ahead. They are much more likely to agree if they know you want to be a donor.
- Around 80% of families say yes to donation when you are registered, but this drops to 40% when they don’t know your wishes.
- One organ donor can save the lives of up to 7 people and change the lives of many more through eye and tissue donation.

**This DonateLife Week be the reason someone gets a second chance at life.
Register as an organ and tissue donor.**



How do you register?

It only takes one minute to register as an organ and tissue donor at donatelife.gov.au, scan the QR code or with 3 taps in your Express Plus Medicare app.

ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION BUSTING COMMON MYTHS



Health

Myth: I'm not healthy enough and I smoke/vape or drink. I don't think I can be a donor.

Fact: You don't have to be in perfect health to be a donor. There are only a few medical conditions that may prevent you from being a donor. You can trust the medical team at the time of your death to determine if donation is possible.

Age

Myth: I must be too old to be a donor.

Fact: You're never too old. People over 80 have become donors.

Religion

Myth: My religion doesn't support donation.

Fact: All major religions do. This includes Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Christianity. You can read some of the religious and cultural support statements in the [community resource library](#) on the DonateLife website.

Funerals

Myth: Organ and tissue donation will disfigure my body, so I won't be able to have an open casket.

Fact: The surgery won't disfigure your body and you can have an open casket if you wish.

Hospitals

Myth: If I'm a registered organ donor, I'll automatically become one when I die.

Fact: Only 2% of Australians die in hospital in a way that makes it possible for them to donate their organs. This is why every potential donor is precious.

Myth: If I'm a registered donor, doctors won't work hard enough to save my life.

Fact: The doctor's first priority is always to save your life. Organ and tissue donation will only be considered if you have died in hospital, or when death is expected.

Drivers licence

Myth: I'm already registered through my drivers licence.

Fact: Unless you live in South Australia, you can no longer register to be a donor when applying for your drivers licence.

You need to register on the Australian Organ Donor Register. It takes less than one minute at donatelife.gov.au or with 3 taps in your Express Plus Medicare app.

Learn more about organ and tissue donation at donatelife.gov.au