



## Every Australian Can Make A Difference

DonateLife Victoria Nurse Donation Specialist Nina Mao is always on the move between conducting community presentations on organ and tissue donation and the professional demands of the Emergency Department of Monash Health.

"I see first-hand how the incredibly generous act of organ donation can not only save many people's lives, but also leave a positive impact on their loved ones," Nina said. "It is so important that families discuss and know each other's wishes about organ donation."

Nina is one of DonateLife Victoria's 33 Nurse Donation specialist spread across the state. These team members help recognise potential donors, facilitate organ and tissue donation and support the staff and families who are involved in the process. A vital part of their role is also reaching out within local communities to increase awareness.

Building awareness in Nina's communities has its particular challenges – her health service covers much of south-eastern Melbourne where people originate from more than 180 countries and speak over 100 different languages.

Nina is a strong advocate of the national Cultural and Linguistically Diverse

engagement strategy, for which Victoria is one of the first states to implement at a local level.

"People from all walks of life depend on the gift of a transplant, regardless of race, origin, religion or language. I think the same should apply to donation."

"I am passionate about helping everyone regardless of background to understand the facts. I am Chinese and have been brought up in the Buddhist faith. Buddhism teaches compassion and respects the death process and body, aims to relieve suffering, and may consider organ donation an act of charity and final gift of generosity. This has allowed me better understanding of the importance of approaching organ donation in a culturally sensitivity manner."



Nina speaking at the 'DonateLife... the greatest gift' special event at Customs House, Sydney



Australian Government  
Organ and Tissue Authority

donate life 

For more information about organ and tissue donation please visit  
[www.donatelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelife.gov.au)