

# JERSEY DAY

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2015 IS JERSEY DAY

AN INITIATIVE OF THE  
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# JERSEY DAY

**JERSEY DAY** is a simple concept designed to raise awareness of The Organ and Tissue Authority and the **DONATE LIFE** network.

On September 4 we are asking schools and workplaces across Australia to allow students and employees to wear their favourite sporting jersey to school or work to show their support for the **DONATE LIFE** network and begin the conversation with their friends and families about Organ Donation and register their decision online.

**JERSEY DAY** has been inspired by the story of **NATHAN GREMMO** who was tragically lost in an accident in May 2015. Nathan's family chose to give the gift of life to others through organ donation to honour the legacy of Nathan's generous personality.

This campaign is all about raising awareness. Simply wear your favourite sporting jersey to school or work on Friday September 4 and show your support for this cause.

Please visit [www.donatelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelife.gov.au) for more information about how you can help to save a life.



## DISCOVER

the facts about organ and tissue donation

## DECIDE

about becoming a donor and register online

## DISCUSS

your decision with the people close to you

## **Decided about becoming an organ and tissue donor?**

Everyone has their own reasons for deciding whether to become an organ and tissue donor. It is important that the people close to you understand those reasons. Your family need to know your donation decision because they will be asked to give consent.

Families that know each other's donation decisions are more likely to uphold them. Families that do not know the decision of the deceased are much less likely to agree to donation.

You may think you are too old or unhealthy to be a donor, or that your religion doesn't support organ and tissue donation. These are common myths and misconceptions.

Discover the facts about organ and tissue donation. This will help you make an informed decision about whether to become an organ and tissue donor. You can register your donation decision online at the Australian Organ Donor Register ([www.donorregister.gov.au](http://www.donorregister.gov.au)), call 1800 777 203 or complete a form at any Department of Human Services service centre.

You still need to discuss your decision with your family.

## **When is a good time to start a family discussion?**

Today. You can use every day situations to start a discussion on important life issues, including what to do with your organs and tissues when you die. This might include:

- the next time your family sits down together for a meal
- making a will or advanced health directive
- getting life insurance or income protection
- leaving home for the first time as a young adult
- getting or renewing your driver's licence
- celebrating an anniversary with your partner
- having a significant birthday: 21, 30, 40, 50 or more
- getting a check-up at the GP
- hearing about someone who has been a donor, needs a transplant or has had a transplant
- watching donation and transplantation stories on TV or seeing a media article
- seeing or hearing an ad on TV, radio or billboards
- seeing a traumatic event in the news
- after a friend or family member dies
- when children discuss the topic at school.

If you have already had a discussion with your family about your donation decision, these events provide a good opportunity to repeat your decision to ensure they are remembered.

## Why does my family need to know my decision?

As part of the national reform programme for organ and tissue donation, the family of every potential donor will be asked to give their consent to donation if the situation arises. The request will be made by trained health professionals.

Even if you have registered your decision to be a donor, your family will still be asked to give consent.

The most important thing people want to know in order to decide about a family member becoming a donor is the donation decision of their loved one.

Many Australians have not informed their family of their donation decision. Many family members do not confidently know each other's donation decision. Many people have not discussed their donation decision with family members in the past 12 months. Many cannot remember.

## It's not my family's business

Yes it is. Your family will be asked to confirm your decision to become a donor when you die.

## I'll think about it later

Most people who become donors die suddenly and unexpectedly.

## I don't have time. I'm too busy

It does not take long to register your decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register and to have a discussion with your family.

## My family won't understand

Organ and tissue donation is a sensitive subject. The decision to become a donor is a personal and important one. To make the right decision for yourself, you need to have the facts so that your decision is informed. Your family might also need time to discover the facts and make their own decisions.

You can download your Family Discussion Kit on organ and tissue donation at [www.donatelife.gov.au](http://www.donatelife.gov.au)

This resource aims to assist your family to have an informed, memorable discussion about each other's donation decisions.

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### DISCUSS

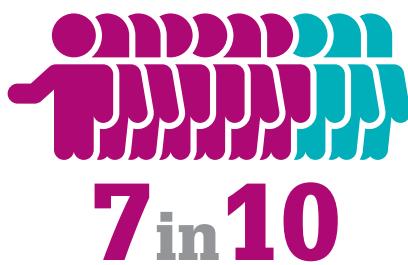
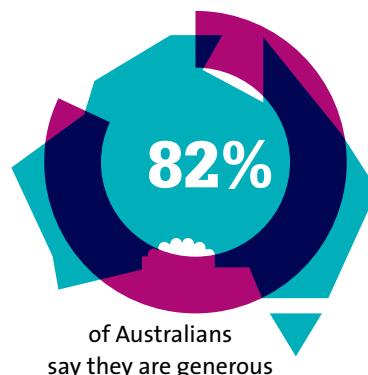
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## Donation facts and statistics

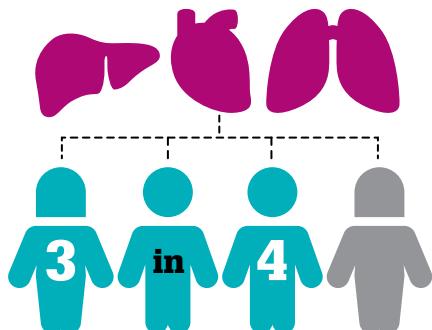
- One organ and tissue donor can transform the lives of 10 or more people.
- Australia is a world leader for successful transplant outcomes.
- Around 1,500 people are on Australian organ transplant waiting lists at any one time.
- To lift donation rates the Australian Government, with State and Territory Governments, has implemented a national reform programme, 'A World's Best Practice Approach to Organ and Tissue Donation for Transplantation'.
- The Australian Government funds dedicated doctors and nurses in 72 hospitals to work specifically on organ and tissue donation. These positions are part of the national DonateLife Network which also includes State Medical Directors, Organ Donor Coordinators and Donor Family Support Coordinators.
- In 2014, 1,117 Australians received an organ transplant as a result of the generosity of 378 organ donors whose families agreed to donation at the time of their loved one's death.
- Complementing the significant progress made in the clinical sector, Australia needs more active engagement and awareness within the community to increase Australia's family consent rate.
- The Australian Government's national reform programme includes actions to increase clinical capacity and capability and to increase community engagement and awareness in relation to organ and tissue donation.
- In Australia the family will always be asked to confirm the donation decision of the deceased before donation can proceed.

## Did you know...?

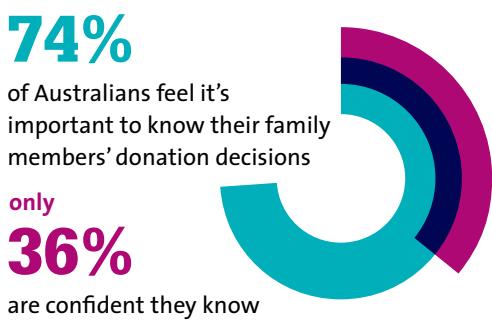
- Australia is a world leader for successful transplant outcomes.
- In 2014, 378 organ donors gave 1,117 transplant recipients a new chance in life.
- Australia's 2014 donation outcomes represent a 53% increase over the 2009 outcomes, the year the DonateLife Network was established.
- In 2014, Australia's donation rate was 16.1 deceased donors per million population (dpmp), a 41% increase over 11.4 dpmp in 2009.
- More than 60% of families give consent for organ and tissue donation to proceed.
- Around 1,500 people are on Australian organ transplant waiting lists at any one time.
- On average, people on the transplant list must wait between six months and four years.
- The most important thing that helps a family's decision is their knowing the donation decision of their loved one.



Australians say that organ and tissue donation is the ultimate act of generosity



Australians would say yes to receiving a life-saving transplant



have discussed the subject with loved ones



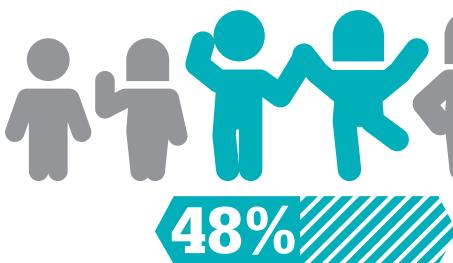
who have made a donation decision have discussed it with family



of Australians are willing to become an organ and tissue donor



have made a decision on becoming a donor



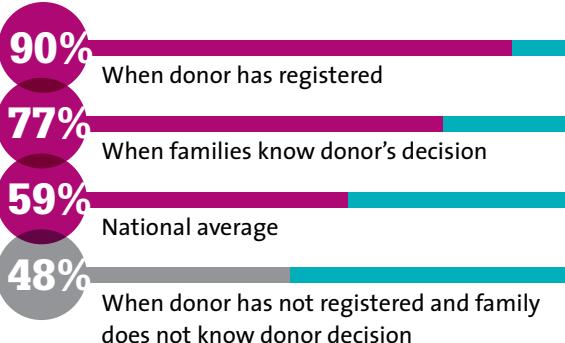
of young people (aged 18–29) are unsure or undecided about becoming a donor



of people aged 65+ have made a decision

### Donation Consent Rate

Knowledge of donation decisions makes a difference



**more than  
1,600**

people are on organ transplant waiting lists in any one month



One deceased organ and tissue donor is able to transform the lives of more than 10 people.

If you'd say yes to a life-saving transplant ... have you said yes to becoming an organ and tissue donor?

Discover, Decide, Discuss organ and tissue donation today



[donatelife.gov.au](http://donatelife.gov.au)

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