



# Make your wish count

Discover, decide and discuss  
organ and tissue donation



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**Rotary**  
Club of Narellan



the chance to  
**save lives**  
organ and tissue donation



One organ and tissue donor can transform  
the lives of 10 or more people.



## Did you know?

- The majority of Australians (69%) are willing to become organ and tissue donors.
- One organ and tissue donor can transform the lives of 10 or more people.
- Even if you register as a donor, your next of kin will be asked to confirm your decision.
- In Australia the family will always be asked to confirm the donation decision of the deceased before donation for transplantation can proceed.
- More than 60% of families give consent for organ and tissue donation to proceed.

# The situation in Australia

- In 2015:
  - 435 deceased organ donors gave 1,241 Australians a new chance in life
  - In Australia more than 60% of families gave consent for organ and tissue donation to proceed.
- Around 1,600 Australians are on national transplant waiting lists at any one time.
- Only around 1% of people actually die in hospital in the specific circumstances where organ donation is possible.

# Why do people need transplants?

- Inherited genetic condition
  - Cardiomyopathy (affects the heart)
  - Cystic fibrosis (affects the lungs)
  - Biliary atresia (affects the liver)
- Disease or damage to eyes
- Congenital defects in young children
- Severe trauma from accidents leading to organ failure
- Rheumatic fever and other severe illness or disease
- Burns can require skin grafts

# Who can become an organ and tissue donor?

- Almost anyone can donate
- Don't assume you are too old, too young or not healthy enough
- People who cannot donate organs may still be able to donate tissue
- Most religions support organ and tissue donation
- Living donors can donate a kidney or partial liver

# What can people donate?

ORGANS	TISSUE
KIDNEYS	CORNEAS
LIVER	HEART VALVES
HEART	PANCREAS ISLETS
LUNGS	SKIN
PANCREAS	BONE
	TENDONS
	LIGAMENTS



# Why we need to start talking?

- The majority of Australians (74%) recognise it is important to discuss donation decisions with family members and loved ones.
- 60% of Australians have discussed their organ and tissue donation decisions with their family, with 85% indicating the discussion was memorable.
- 61% of Australians are unsure or do not know the donation decisions of family members.
- We need to normalise discussion about organ and tissue donation.



# Donation consent rates



When donor has registered to donate



When families know donor's decision



National average



When donor has not registered and family does not know donor decision

# The journey so far...

## Rebecca's story

Rebecca lived a very full life even though she passed away from a heart attack due to Type 1 Diabetes and Hyperthyroidism.

The day I had always feared had finally come.

Rebecca had diabetes from the age of seven and was continually in and out of hospital. Despite her illnesses and struggles she got on with life and drained every drop out of the short life she had.

Rebecca enjoyed socialising and having fun, while also getting into a spot of trouble here and there. In other words she was a typical teenager who introduced me to grey hair at a young age.

She had just become engaged to the man of her dreams and enrolled in TAFE. She was excited that her future seemed brighter than ever before.

During her many admissions into hospital we would spend a lot of time talking about what she wanted if she should die. As I am from a medical family we openly discussed issues such as organ donation. It was natural to talk about this with my own children and relatives.

It gave our family comfort to know that in her death an opportunity for a better life was given to four other people. Two kidneys and two corneas were donated.

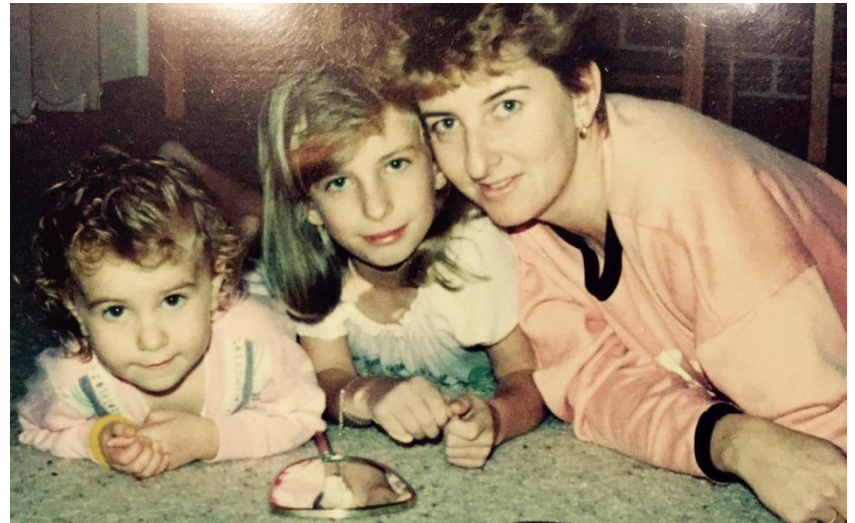
I received a letter which made me smile from one of the recipients of a kidney. Hearing directly from a recipient really gave my family great comfort.

The Honourable Chris Hayes MP has shared Rebecca's story in Federal Parliament to highlight the importance of families talking about the issue. Rebecca's story helped to promote the importance of the Australian Organ Donor Register. While she is no longer with us her organs and her story continue to make a difference to many.

Debbie



Rebecca



**Rebecca**

# Wairangi's story



This story is being told with permission of the family



# Wairangi's story



# What can you do?



# What can you do?

- Ask your friends if they have discussed their donation decision with their next of kin.
- Become a volunteer or member of a community organisation, like Rotary, or DonateLife agency.
- Organise a speaking event in your community.
- Take part in DonateLife Week, the annual awareness week which is held in February.
- Become a DonateLife Facebook friend.
- Display DonateLife TV ads, posters and other materials in your community and start a discussion.
- Discuss with your workplace/sporting organisation about becoming a DonateLife Friend



# Make a difference





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

