



To donate life, discuss it today. OK?

It's important to discuss organ and tissue donation with the people close to you.

Decided or thought 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 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 wishes 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 decision online at the Australian Organ Donor Register (www.medicareaustralia.gov.au), call 1800 777 203 or complete a form at any Medicare branch.

You still need to discuss your decision with your family.

**discuss
your
decision**

When is a good time to discuss it with your family?

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 wishes, 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 package 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 wish to be a donor, your family will still be asked to give consent.

The most important thing people want to know in order to make a decision about a family member becoming a donor is the wishes of the deceased.

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.

www.donatelife.gov.au

