



## General Practitioners

Raising awareness for the potential of organ and tissue donation

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

- As a general practitioner you are well placed to raise community awareness about the potential for organ and tissue donation.
- You can educate, discuss and disseminate information about organ and tissue donation with your patients.
- Nationally there are about 1800 patients waiting for a transplant at any one time and of these approximately 300 will die each year.
- Most organ donors are people who have died, as a result of a serious head injury, usually in a hospital intensive care unit currently on a ventilator.
- Most major religions support organ and tissue donation.
- Organs that can be donated include kidneys, heart, lungs, liver, pancreas, stomach and intestines.
- Tissue donation can include corneas, whole eye, heart valves, skin, tendons and bone.
- An important research finding is the need for individuals to **discuss organ & tissue donation with their family**, informing each other of their wishes.
- There is no age limit on the donation of some organs and tissue.
- The age and medical history of a potential donor will be considered at the time of donation but people **should not assume** that they may be too old or not healthy enough to donate organs.

Organ & Tissue Donation at The Alfred  
Email: [organdonation@alfred.org.au](mailto:organdonation@alfred.org.au)

### Australian Organ Donor Register

<http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/public/services/aodr/register.jsp>

### DonateLife - Victorian Organ Donation Agency

- [GP EDUCATION PACKAGE](#) -

### Lions Eye Donation Service

<http://www.cera.org.au/our-work/lions-eye-donation-service>

### Donor Tissue Bank of Victoria

<http://www.vfm.org/n135.html>

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