

March 2019

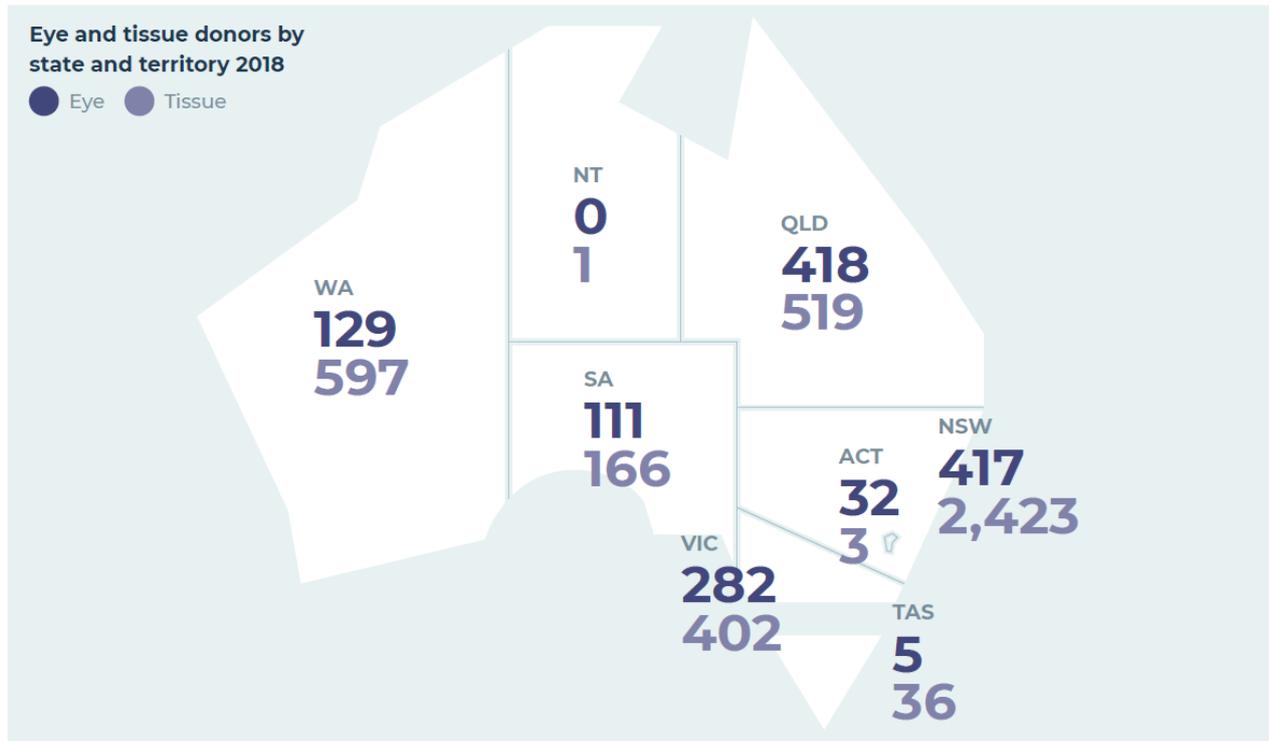
Welcome to the March 2019 edition of the NSW Tissue Banks Newsletter

Tissue Donation Outcomes for 2018

National outcomes for organ and tissue donation were released in January, revealing a record number of Australians received corneal and tissue graft transplants in 2018.

In 2018, 2,258 Australians received a corneal transplant through the generosity of 1,394 eye donors and their families. This is a 4% increase in the number of corneal transplant recipients compared with 2017, and a 54% increase since the introduction of the national program in 2009.

There were 4,147 tissue donors, resulting in 8,248 tissue graft recipients. The graph below shows the large contribution of the NSW Tissue Banks, which continues to meet demand for corneal transplantation.



For full results, visit donatelife.gov.au/about-us/strategy-and-performance/national-performance-data

New Amnion Donation Program

The NSW Tissue Banks has commenced the amnion donor program, an innovative new program which facilitates the retrieval of amnion from consented donors having elective caesarean sections.

The tissue is prepared as a graft to be used for ophthalmic surgery and as a wound dressing.

NSW Tissue Banks Presents Interstate & Internationally

Representatives from the NSW Tissue Banks were honoured to attend and contribute to the following recent conferences:

- ◆ **Coordination Team Leader, Pierre Georges** presented in the 'advances and challenges of eye banking in 2019' session at the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology Conference in Bangkok
- ◆ **Tissue Donor Coordinator, Flavia Russell and Laboratory Manager, Raj Devasahayam** presented on the eye donation and transplant activity in NSW at the Annual ANZ Corneal Society and Eye Bank Meeting in Adelaide

Pictured right: *Pierre Georges at the APAO Conference*



National Organ Donation & Transplantation Conference

Over two exciting days in mid-March, organ and tissue donation and transplantation health professionals from across Australia gathered in Sydney at the national *Connecting Donation and Transplantation Conference*, to celebrate a decade of growth and collaboration.

As this year marks the 10th anniversary of our national program, the Conference looked at the past, present and future of donation and transplantation, clinical and technological advances, expanding boundaries in transplantation and strategies for driving practice changes.

Representatives from the NSW Tissue Banks were delighted to share updates from the tissue donation sector. We heard from:

- ◆ **Living Donor Coordinator, Helen McKeon** who presented on the new amnion donor program
- ◆ **Project Officer, Chris Hodge** who presented a 10 year review in eye donor consent rates
- ◆ **NSW Tissue Banks Manager, Jane Treloggen** who presented on the creation and operations of the NSW Organ & Tissue Donation Research Steering Committee



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP and other speakers at the 2019 Connecting Donation and Transplantation Conference

Welcome to Ben Scott

Welcome to our new starter, Ben!

Ben has qualifications in forensic science and has worked at the Department of Forensic Medicine Sydney for a number of years.

Ben joins the Tissue Retrieval team and brings a lot of experience with the application of principles required to work within a highly sensitive and regulated environment.

Media and Promotion

Welcome to our New Volunteers

The NSW Organ & Tissue Donation Service Volunteer Program has recently held its fourth induction session. We now have 18 onboarded volunteers!

Meet one of our newest volunteers: *Hilary Pilbeam, Donor Family from Newcastle*

A bit about Hilary:

I am a 3rd year Physiotherapy student at the University of Newcastle. I am originally from Lithgow, NSW where I have lived my entire life with my family until moving to Newcastle.

What brought me to become a DonateLife volunteer?

In 2012, I unfortunately lost my Mother. She went on to save the lives of others by donating her organs.

Through volunteering with DonateLife I hope to carry on my mothers legacy of kindness, and helping others, and also to bring awareness about organ donation to those who are undecided or considering registering.



Hilary, pictured far left at the Australian Catholic University Market Day

Media and Promotion

DonateLife visits Universities during O-Week

We hosted a number of DonateLife stalls at University of Wollongong, Australian Catholic University and Western Sydney University to talk about organ and tissue donation with university students.

We had a successful few days with the help of some of our brand new volunteers, resulting in lots of on-the-spot registrations and valuable conversations about the importance of family discussion of donation wishes.

Pictured right: *Labor MP for Shellharbour, Anna Watson with two university students at University of Wollongong's O-Festival*



2019 Remembrance Service

The 2019 Service of Remembrance will take place in May to honour all deceased organ and tissue donors and their families.

When: Saturday 25th May, 2019

Time: 2:00pm

Where: Wesley Theatre, 220 Pitt St, Sydney

No RSVP's required. For more information, please call **Madeline Bowmer, Media & Communications Officer on 02 8566 1714.**

Organ Donation Outcomes for 2018

The 2018 national and jurisdictional outcomes for organ and tissue donation were officially announced and published on 23rd January. The Minister responsible for the Organ and Tissue Authority, Ken Wyatt announced the outcomes at an event at St Vincent's Hospital, resulting in national media coverage.

Minister Wyatt was accompanied by CEO for the Organ and Tissue Authority, Lucinda Barry, State Medical Director for the NSW Organ & Tissue Donation Service, Prof Michael O'Leary, donor family member Leah Barthel and Jayden Cummins who was on the heart transplant waiting list and has since received his long-awaited heart transplant.

The key message from the outcomes was that more Australians are saying yes to organ and tissue donation, which is a fantastic result.

“One of the key factors driving the increase in donations is a significant rise in the consent rate, from 59% in 2017 to 64% in 2018, the highest rate ever recorded,” said Minister Wyatt.

We can continue to increase our consent rate if more Australians register on the Australian Organ Donor Register, and discuss their donation decision with family. The next graph shows that 9 in 10 families agree to donation when their family member is registered.

Contact

Please contact the staff of the NSW Tissue Banks on 02 9382 7855 if you have any questions or would like a speaker for a meeting, dinner or event. To book facility tours on the 1st Wed of Month, at 11am please ring 02 9382 7855

Media and Promotion

The importance of registration and family discussion



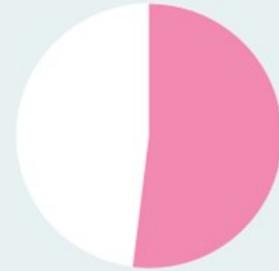
93%

Families agreed to donation when their family member was registered on the AODR



73%

Families agreed to donation when they knew their family member wanted to be a donor



52%

Families agreed to donation when their family member was not registered and had not discussed donation

Funding Announced for Indigenous Program

On the 12th March, Minister Wyatt announced that the Morrison Government will provide \$2.3 million to drive a national project to lift the low rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians receiving donor organs, as recommended in a recent report on improving access to and outcomes of kidney transplantation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The announcement was welcomed, knowing that in 2018, among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people registered for Renal Replacement Therapy, only 13% received transplants, compared with 51% of non-Indigenous Australians.

Indigenous Australians receive organ transplants at a quarter of the rate of non-Indigenous

Clip from segment about funding announcement featured on national TV



The federal government has announced \$2.3 million dollars of funding towards improving Indigenous Australians organ transplant numbers.

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