The Challenges of Organ Donation in Remote and Regional Australia

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DonateLife Northern Territory
Make your decision count.

Join the Australian Organ Donor Register today.
donatelifegov.au

Arthur is very grateful to be given a second chance as a liver recipient. He is no longer tired all the time and can enjoy being a granddad.

#makeitcount
About 6% of Australia’s population live above the line.
Not a Frequent Event

- ICU and Theatre staff may be unfamiliar with the process

- “I didn’t think it happened here”

- Donation Specialists (medical & nursing): gaining experience and maintaining competency
Medical Suitability

- Medical suitability impacted by high rates of chronic disease and sepsis
Four hours to all transplant centres
Logistics

- Limited transport options
- Processing bloods
- Retrieval surgeons
- DCD
- Timing theatre to suit everyone’s needs
Impact on the Transplant Recipient

- Less organs per donor
- Extended ischaemic times
- Limited diagnostic capacity
Unconscious bias

ORGAN DONORS ARE CHAMPIONS

An organ donor is someone who donates their body organs to help a person with sick organs get better. You can donate your heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and pancreas.

If you want to find out more about organ donation and transplants talk to your health ethic or visit www.donatelife.gov.au

A VERY BIG DECISION

It is your decision but very important to talk with your family members about it. Family members need to understand your decision.

Being on the THE AUSTRALIAN ORGAN DONOR REGISTER is a very big decision.
Consent Rates: a complex issue…….
Offering donation to Aboriginal families

- Ensure the family know this will be an important meeting
- Teleconference - the community health clinic
- Interpreter
- Have a plan and have time
- Speak slowly, pause, regularly check for understanding
- Tell it like a story
- Agree on clear timelines for a decision
Donors from Northern Australia (above 26\textsuperscript{th} parallel)

Organ & Tissue Authority

ANZOD 2018
Donor rate comparison

Donors per million population

2017
2016
2015
2014

Northern Australia
Australia

ANZOD 2018
Aboriginal kidney recipient (top left): “After the transplant I feel much better. My aim now is to help people understand about organ donation.”