

# If you want to be an organ donor, tell someone who cares!

Have you ever thought about being a lifesaver? All you have to do is use a pen to record your decision to be an organ donor and tell someone who cares you want to save lives after your death.

## The Power of the Pen

You have the potential to become a lifesaver by recording your decision via the Australian Organ Donor Register or the NSW RTA driver's licence form. You can tick the box and consent to the donation of any of your organs or tissues or specify exactly which ones you'd like to donate for transplantation. Of course the option is also there if you don't want to become a donor.

Simply fill out the details, place your signature and the date, and you are half way there.

## Tell Someone Who Cares

You belong to a close knit group of family and friends who will gather at the hospital should you have a medical condition or accident that leads to your death. These people will hear the news that you have passed away and, if you have registered, will hear the news you can undergo the organ donation procedure in the next few hours.

Don't make this time any more difficult for them – experience shows that the families who have discussed organ donation feel much more comfortable with the deceased's decision and the procedure. Also, many potential organ donations don't go ahead because people just aren't aware of the decision made by their children, siblings, grandparents etc. So if you want to be an organ donor, tell someone who cares!

Please post a 'Tell Someone Who Cares' postcard at the exhibition display stand, email a friend or call and tell a relative that you want to be an organ donor right now.

## Can I Ask A Question?

For more information contact the Australian Red Cross Blood Service on (02) 9229 4003 or visit [www.organ.redcross.org.au](http://www.organ.redcross.org.au) or call the Australian Organ Donor Register on 1800 777 203.



Thomas Philip Raymond Wells  
Born: 14/01/2004  
Diagnosis: Biliary Atresia  
Organ needed: Liver



Monique Rushbrook  
Born: 4/02/81  
Diagnosis: Keratoconus  
Organ needed: Cornea

## Life Can't Wait - Art Exhibition

Life Can't Wait is an inspirational art exhibition created by Gillie and Marc Schattner, featuring 12 average Australians whose lives could be saved or improved with an organ or tissue transplant. They have been painted to show what they will do following their transplant - they will 'travel again', they will 'have the ride of their lives', they will 'kick goals' and even 'play cricket'.

Thomas Wells is the little one year old featured in the exhibition and he is living proof that aspirations can come true – just weeks after his portrait was painted he received the lower lobe of an adult liver which has saved his life. His dream was to 'live in hope' and that hope was acknowledged when a complete stranger passed away and donated not only organs and tissue but the precious Gift of Life to Thomas and others.

Monique Rushbrook who was going blind due to a degenerative disease, has also had her wish fulfilled by the generosity of a tissue donor and their family. This will allow Monique to 'see into the future', to complete her second degree and continue to look into the eyes of the people she loves - all due to the precious gift of sight generously given via the donation of a cornea.

The 2000 Australians who have been placed within the transplanting waiting pool have no other option available to them – no drugs or machines can keep them alive indefinitely – they need a transplant.

The pressure on not only those waiting but their families, their work colleagues and friends is immeasurable. What is also immeasurable is what transplant recipients give back – they can work again, pay taxes, look after their own health and no longer take up space within the hospital system, undertake voluntary work and allow those looking after them to get back to their lives.

This exhibition has been designed to show the real face of those people waiting for a second chance at life and to show the community a sample representation of who would be likely to receive their organs should they eventually become a donor.

**We hope you think about the people who are waiting, register your decision and tell someone who cares!**