

Media Release

1 August 2016



This DonateLife Week Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (WACHS) is urging Aboriginal people, communities and families to have discussions about organ and tissue donation to help end the wait for those in need of a life-saving transplant.

“Conversations concerning organ and tissue donation of loved ones is not something that is a high priority, and even when it occurs it can be a very difficult conversation,” said Chief Executive Officer of WACHS, Darren Ah See. “However, at WACHS we want to encourage Aboriginal people especially families to consider becoming organ and tissue donors, to save lives of others who require donated organs or tissues.”

DonateLife Week is from Sunday 31 July- Sunday 7 August.

“To encourage more indigenous people in the region to join the Australian Organ Donor Register online to help save lives, WACHS will be holding a number of events for staff and the community,” Mr Ah See said.

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking team is partnering with DonateLife and the Organ and Tissue Authority to support the Dubbo Waratah’s Rugby League Knockout on 24 September, in particular the James Ackerman Legacy, and participating in the 2016 City to Surf in Sydney on 14 August to raise awareness.

“Registering on the Australian Organ Donor Register is important though we encourage families to have these discussions first so that they are aware of their loved ones wishes in relation to donating their organs or tissues,” said Mr Ah See

“With around 1,500 Australians on transplant waiting lists today, we need to optimise every donation opportunity to save more lives – we can all do this by joining the Register online and sharing our decision with family and friends.”

In Australia, the family will always be asked to confirm the donation decision of their loved one before donation for transplantation can proceed. Families that have discussed and know each other’s donation decisions are much more likely to support donation proceeding.

“We urge our community to discover the facts about organ and tissue donation, and to make and register a donation decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register and let family and friends know your decision.”

DonateLife Week is led by the Organ and Tissue Authority as part of the national DonateLife campaign and supported by community events and activities across Australia.

For more information, visit donatelifegov.au or www.wachs.net.au

Media Contact: Rebekah Bullock 0407959781

This project is sponsored by



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