

the australian donor family quilt.

For further details, or if you would be interested in helping to coordinate this project, please contact our Quilt coordinator:

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overview

Transplant Australia is launching a new initiative especially for donor families: **the creation of a national donor family quilt.** This is a grassroots community-driven activity which provides an opportunity for donor families to commemorate their loved one's life.

Donor family quilts are already in existence in a number of other countries such as the **United States and the United Kingdom** where they are displayed each year at the Transplant Games.

The Donor Family Quilt in Australia will provide a tangible activity for donor families to talk about organ and tissue donation. **It will be an ever-growing commemorative piece** which can be displayed at any function where organ and tissue donation and transplantation is the focus of attention.

All our donor families, whether they are involved in Transplant Australia or not, are welcome to contribute to what we are hoping **will become an ongoing tribute to the wonderful gift of organ and tissue donation.**

Donor families have an inspiring and powerful argument to contribute to the organ and tissue donation message in the community. They are the ones **who have 'opted in' to support donation,** invariably at a time of emotional upheaval in their family life.

Not only does the Quilt represent a national symbol for donation but each patch created can be used by that donor family **to remember their loved one** and to promote their support for donation.



ben
wiseman

“ Having a donor quilt with a square remembering our son, Ben, helps us to feel a part of a group of people who have lost a loved one. Knowing that he has helped others to have their family member alive and well gives us comfort every day. ”

Marguerite and Laurie Wiseman

Where to start

Here are some ideas of how you can get started and make the Quilt a reality:

Visit www.kidney.org/transplantation/donorfamilies/quilt.cfm to view patches made for the National Donor Family Quilt in the US. There are hundreds of inspirations on this site.

Talk to your family members and friends and get some consensus on the design of your patch. What reminds everyone of him or her? It might be his favourite footy jumper, a dress she wore at her christening or wedding, a favourite photo or his fishing jacket?

You can place poems, pictures, symbols, virtually anything on your patch. But please make sure it is fastened correctly as the quilt will travel and be a permanent tribute to your loved one.

You can use almost any fabric, colour or type, paint (please no water colours), permanent markers or threads. Photos must be laminated or they can be transferred to fabric at a local photo shop.

Your patch should be 10inches (25.4cms) square and the design should fit inside nine inches (22.9cm) square.

Do not finish the patch with quilting or backing.

What else

We would greatly appreciate a photograph and/or 100 words describing your patch and loved one together with a completed Quilt form which can be found at the end of this brochure.



**christopher
morellini**

“ Helping create the Donor Family Quilt highlights the significance of our son Christopher’s incredible and loving gift of life to four people. ”

Nerida Morellini

doujon zammit



“ The Zammit family had the conversation and Doujon made his wishes known to his parents about organ and tissue donation. With this knowledge his parents were able to honour his wish to become an organ donor. His gift saved four people’s lives. ”

What to do next

Please send your patch safely by post to:

Julie Edwards
Transplant Australia
PO Box 592
North Sydney
NSW 2059

Please include your email address and phone number so we can confirm safe arrival.

Do encourage any other donor families you know to join this wonderful project.

About Transplant Australia

Vision

Transplant Australia exists to enrich and celebrate life. Our vision is for Australia to lead the world in organ and tissue donation and transplantation - saving lives, improving quality of life and providing much needed care and support.

Mission

Transplant Australia works in the areas of advocacy, awareness and support. Our objectives are to increase the rate of donation; improve the community’s understanding of transplantation; and to provide members with support, education and guidance to improve their health and quality of life.

Overview

We are the national community organisation promoting organ & tissue donation and caring for all of those touched by transplantation. We have an enviable record in influencing organ donation rates through the staging of Australia's largest awareness event for donation - the Australian Transplant Games. We are a registered charity with Deductible Gift Recipient status.

From its heritage in staging the Australian Transplant Games, it has grown into the largest body of its kind in the world and proudly boasts more than 3,000 transplant recipient members, 457 donor family members and 273 living donors. In addition a range of people touched by donation and transplantation, such as medical practitioners, transplant nurses, and family members, belong to Transplant Australia.

Goals

- Goal 1 -** Provide our members with support, education and guidance to improve their health, quality of life, emotional and intellectual wellbeing
- Goal 2 -** Improve the community's understanding of organ and tissue donation and transplantation and the unique gift provided through donation;
- Goal 3 -** Advance the science of transplantation
- Goal 4 -** Promote membership of Transplant Australia and increase the involvement of members in Transplant's Australia sporting and recreational programs

Our Donor Family Network

The Quilt forms part of Transplant Australia's new donor family network program. The program includes:

Support: Donor families go through great emotional upheaval and support is an important route to get through those difficult times. Transplant Australia has a dedicated donor family member in each state who can offer a word of advice, comfort and answer any questions you may have.

Opening Parade: At every Transplant Games, donor family members and living donors march into the opening ceremony in tribute to their loved ones and to celebrate their decision to donate.

Butterfly release: At the Games donor families will have the opportunity to release live monarch butterflies in memory of their loved ones in a moving ceremony. The butterfly is a symbol of the donor's spirit.

Community champion program: You can join the program and help promote the importance of organ and tissue donation and what it means to you.

If you would like to become a member of Transplant Australia and our Donor Family Network please visit www.transplant.org.au

Application

Australian Donor Family Quilt

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Donor Tribute (100 words or less).

Included in this envelope:

Donor Patch (please tick)

Donor Photograph (please tick)

I Consent to the use of this patch on the Donor Family Quilt and its replication together with our donor's photograph (optional) and tribute on the Transplant Australia website.

Signed: _____

Date: _____