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Celebrating the Greatest Gift of All

Tasmania to host the Australian Transplant Games

The 18th Australian Transplant Games will be held in Launceston, Tasmania from the 26 September to 3 October 2026, marking the first time the games will have been held in Tasmania in its nearly 40-year history.

The Australian Transplant Games bring together transplant recipients, living donors, donor family and their family and friends to celebrate the great gift of all – organ and tissue donation. The games are more than winning medals – they are a powerful demonstration of what is possible after a transplant while honouring the donors who make it possible.

Transplant Australia joined with Federal and Tasmania Government representatives today (Wednesday, January 28) to announce Launceston as the 2026 Games Host City.

Two people at the announcement signified the importance of the messaging behind the Games – 22-year-old liver transplant recipient, Bella Dyer, and Donor Family Member, Michele Polley.

Diagnosed with biliary atresia, Bella received a life-saving transplant at the age of five and spent many months in the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

Now aged 22, Bella lives in Launceston, works full time as a disability support officer and reflects fondly on her experience at the Australian Transplant Games as a junior.

"I am really excited about the Games coming to my hometown and I am thrilled to be sharing all the beauty of Tasmania with the transplant community. The Games are really inspirational, with people of all ages taking part and it shows the difference that organ and tissue donation makes to so many people. I wouldn't be here today without my donor. I am forever grateful and I want to help raise awareness so more Australians can get that second chance at life."

Michele has been a strong supporter of DonateLife after her son, Aaron, became an organ donor in 2003 saving four lives.

Transplant Australia CEO, Chris Thomas, said: “The Australian Transplant Games are truly a celebration of life. They show the courage, strength and determination of the transplant community and the incredible impact that organ and tissue donation has on so many lives.”

“These games are a chance for participants to inspire others, honour their donors, and demonstrate that life after a transplant can be full, vibrant and limitless”

The Games are a week-long celebration involving more than 17 sports including swimming, athletics, golf, pétanque, lawn bowls, cycling, and soccer. Transplant recipients, donor families, living donors, family members and supporters from around Australia and beyond will attend the Games.

The Games are anticipated to attract over 500 visitors from around Australia and overseas, with local community invited to participate in selected events including the DonateLife Fun Run or join in as volunteers and spectators in this inspirational event.

The Games are supported by the Organ & Tissue Authority and the Tasmanian Government through Events Tasmania.

To register as an organ and tissue donor, visit donatelife.gov.au and tell your family about your decision.

For Games information please visit: australiantransplantgames.com

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Notes to Editor:

About Transplant Australia

Transplant Australia promotes the life-saving benefits of organ and tissue donation to the Australian public and supporting those most vulnerable through their journey back to the fullness of life. Transplant Australia’s mission is to be a strong advocate for best practice in the organ and tissue donation sector, to promote its life saving benefits to governments and the Australian public and to provide all those touched by transplantation with support, education and guidance to improve their health, quality of life and well-being.

Media Contact

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