



Donor Families  
AUSTRALIA

# Donor Families Australia NEWS

Summer 2020, Edition 22

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## IN MEMORY OF TRUE HERO, BRODIE

**In 2013, Julie lost her son, Brodie, who became a true hero, giving the gift of life to five people. In 2019, she met one. Here's her story.**

In the early hours of Saturday morning (6.30 am), 29 June 2013, my phone rang. Half asleep, I picked it up; it wasn't a number I knew so I went to put it back on the bedside table — then a voice in my head said: "Answer it! Answer it!" So I did. And slowly, the worst day of my life began.

My 18 year old son Brodie had stayed at a friend's house that night. I heard his friend say: "Brodie has had an asthma attack and we had to call an ambulance." In that moment, I sat up in my bed, trying to clear my head and process the words that had just been said to me.

Later that morning, I arrived at the Alfred Hospital. Sitting in the ICU waiting room, I had no idea what to expect. Brodie has had many asthma attacks over the years for which I've had to call an ambulance, but he'd never been taken to the Alfred — and he had never become unconscious with an attack.

Entering Brodie's room, I stopped frozen in the doorway, looking at my beautiful boy on life support, with so many machines. I quickly told myself: "It's okay; he will be fine. People are put on life support all the time so they can rest and heal."

I sat for hours with my boy, talking to him, reassuring him that he would be okay.

Later that afternoon, Brodie was taken for x-rays as the doctors suspected there might be some brain damage after he had gone into cardiac arrest three times on the way to the hospital.

The doctors had the result. They sat in Brodie's room with me, my older son David, and my sister.

~continued page 2



*A life that touches others goes on forever*

# TRUE HERO, BRODIE

~continued from cover

I remember the two doctors quietly explaining to us that the x-rays showed Brodie was completely brain dead there was nothing more they could do for him. As the tears ran down my cheeks, I struggled to process what they were saying! I was his mum, his nurturer, his protector. But there was nothing I could do to fix or stop what was happening.

The next day while sitting with Brodie, a nurse told me she was organising a social worker to come and speak with us. I knew what they wanted to talk about so I told her that Brodie wanted to be an organ donor. A co-ordinator from DonateLife came later.

I was glad that I'd had that discussion about organ donation two years earlier with Brodie, never thinking for a moment that I would ever have to honour his wishes. At 16 years old, my sweet boy didn't hesitate when I asked him about organ donation. He said: "Mum, I don't need it when I'm gone. Just take whatever you need to take to help people." Then he looked at me and said: "All I ask is, please don't touch my eyes." With a little smile he went on: "The eyes are the window to the soul Mum."

At 8 am, 1 July 2013, Brodie was taken to theatre; the heartbreaking reality starting to hit me all at once as they wheeled my boy out of his room and into eight hours of surgery. Everything around me was silent and I felt like the world had stopped.

Brodie, in my eyes is a hero; a hero who gave the gift of life to five people.

A young man now has his heart.

A middle aged woman who had been on dialysis for eight years, received his right kidney. A young man who was on dialysis for two years received his left. Brodie's liver was shared by two recipients: a middle aged man received the right side and a 14 month old baby girl was given the left — she had only days to live.

I now live with gratitude and pride knowing that Brodie selflessly made the decision himself to donate his organs and five recipients have been given a second chance of life.

On 18 May 2019, a day I had been waiting and longing for was here: I was going to meet one of Brodie's recipients. I had found Alex, the 14 month old baby girl who was now seven years old. Her mum, Sondra, had put Alex's transplant date on the Donor & Recipients Group Facebook page. To confirm we were a match, Sondra wrote to Alex's donor family I received that letter two weeks later!

I drove to Mornington with an emotional roller coaster of feelings going through my mind. But that was not going to stop me from meeting Alex. I arrived at her family home where I was greeted by Sondra. There were a lot of tears between two mums who held each other for the longest time.

Then I met Alex, the sweet little girl who now lives with a part of my son. Her little arms reached out to greet me with a hug I will never forget. Alex is a funny and happy little girl who I am so grateful to have met. I hope to see her grow and live a long, happy, healthy life.

I knew Brodie had saved lives but it was so surreal. The recipients were just words on paper — they didn't seem real until now! Meeting Alex has made it real. She is my reality to what Brodie has given so selflessly.

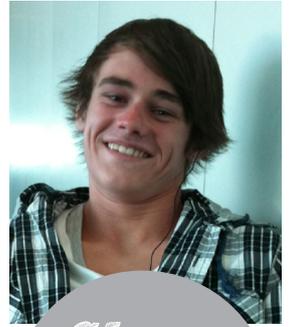
It has helped me realise that his death wasn't for nothing. I have found a sort of peace since meeting Alex, a peace I hope that many of the people I have met along this path of grief and organ donation will get to experience one day.

My son Brodie was a beautiful, giving young man with a crazy sense of humour. He has left me with so many happy memories that I will hold forever in my heart.

Brodie, you held my hand for a short time but you will hold my heart forever!

In memory of a true Hero.

*Julie Wilson*



*Share  
your  
story*

 *A life that touches others goes on forever*

# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is that time of year when we miss our loved one even more, if that is possible. I know from personal experience, Christmas was a lot of fun when all our kids were around us enjoying what the day brings.

Now that it is missing that one person that made us whole, it is not the same. Time helps but doesn't heal. We have included in our Newsletter an article from Sean Dicks with the idea of sharing with your family and friends that will be around you at this time. Hopefully it helps them know what you are going through.

Looking back over the past twelve months, it has been a very memorable year. We became a Tax Deductible Charity which will be instrumental in assisting Donor Families Australia (DFA) grow to provide more support and advocacy for our members whilst ensuring we promote Organ and Tissue donation to the wider community.

Our most notable achievement for the year was the much anticipated Conference which was held at the University of Canberra on 4-5 October. This was DFA's inaugural Conference and the first of its kind organised by Donor Families in the world. It was an outstanding success with many positive reports coming back from delegates. This could not have been possible without the hard work of our Conference Committee which comprised of: Holly Northam, Chair, Sam Howkins, Bruce McDowell, Philippa Dalahoy, Barry Mewett, Kerri Cargill, Steve Williams and Kevin Green. This group put in tirelessly to ensure the success of the Conference. Please read our summary and peruse our photo gallery included in this edition of our Newsletter.

The DFA AGM was held during the Conference. Our new look committee is as follows – Bruce McDowell – Chair (WA); Leanne Campbell Vice Chair, (VIC); Helen Day – Treasurer, (NT);

Philippa Delahoy – Secretary (NSW); Philippa Waldron (WA); Kelli McDonald (QLD); Graham Harrison (NSW); Jann Eastley (NSW), Holly Northam (ACT); Barry Mewett (ACT); Julie Wilson (VIC); Jackie Robson (SA);



and Rebecca Free (TAS). We have included their bio's and photo's in this edition so you can learn more about them. This Committee is looking forward to next year and actioning what our members have put forward at the conference as areas they wished addressed.

One of the many topics brought up at the conference was to introduce DFA to Instagram and Twitter. DFA member, Nathan Gail, has been busy and we now have both accounts under the handle of **@Donor\_Families\_Australia**. Keep an eye out for us as we move into this space and join in on the conversation.

DFA members continue to be represented on OTA Community Engagement Group to ensure that the views of donor families are considered with anything that impacts on them or their loved ones. Our members are also very active in the community promoting organ and tissue donation.

DFA will be thinking about our membership over the difficult Christmas and the New Year period and look forward to catching up with many of you in the New Year. We will continue to ensure that *'Nothing About Us, Without Us'* will continue to be our catch cry in the new year, as we continue to support our members.

**Bruce McDowell**

Chairman



# DEATH CERTIFICATES: A LASTING LEGACY

**Back in 2011, the Victorian Government's Legal and Social Issues References Committee initiated a review into Organ Donation in Victoria.**

They were looking to review the success to date of the 2008 National Reform Agenda and at ways to capitalise on the recent growth in Organ and Tissue Donation.

Stakeholders were invited to write a submission for the review. I felt it was very important that the Committee hear from a Donor Family member with the lived experience so I submitted a response. Penny Mitchell, a donor mother, gained 5,000 signatures on a petition in 2011 to have their donation stated on their Death Certificate — to no avail.

In March 2012, the Inquiry into Organ Donation in Victoria was reported. Recommendation 20 reads: "That the Victorian Government consider ways to acknowledge and recognise the altruistic act of organ donation including the possibility of suitable acknowledgement on the donor's death certificate."

In July 2013, it appeared that there was not going to be any action on this recommendation so I emailed all the committee members for a response.

Only one of the nine politicians on the committee responded to my email. Colleen Hartland, then member for Western Metropolitan Region,

organised to meet with me to discuss my concerns.

I received a letter from Professor CW Brooks PSM, Executive Director, Wellbeing, Integrated Care and Ageing as part of the Department of Health. In part it said, "Under Section 45 of the Victorian Human Tissue Act 1982, all information on organ donors and recipients can only be disclosed under very specific circumstances. The disclosure of organ donor information by a designated hospital doctor to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registrar, as would be required for inclusion on a death certificate, is not required as a special circumstance and therefore is not feasible under the Current Act".

In subsequent years, I hounded then Minister for Health, David Davis to no avail.

Whilst taking part in several external reviews and DonateLife forums, I actively sought out anyone attending from the Department of Health. The general consensus was that it had been looked at, but it was all too hard and no further action would be taken. A recent email to the current Health Minister Jenny Mikakos has gone unanswered.

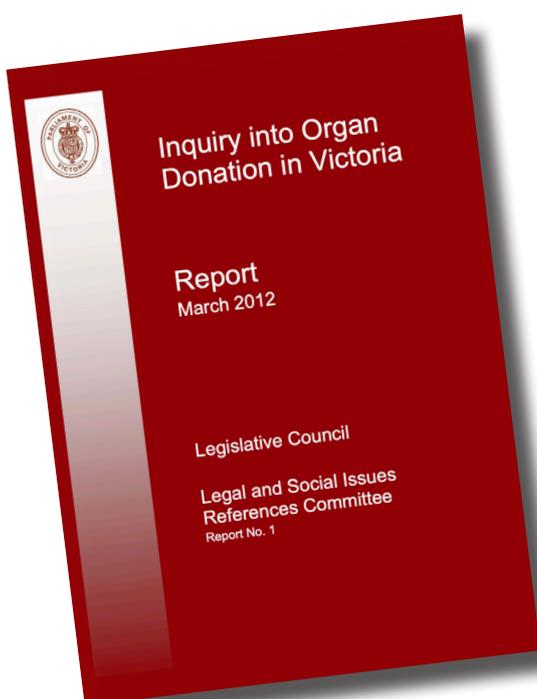
The recognition of a Donor's Gift of Life should be able to be recorded on their Death Certificate if the family so wishes. This is their last legal document and would be a lasting legacy to the wonderful gift they gave.

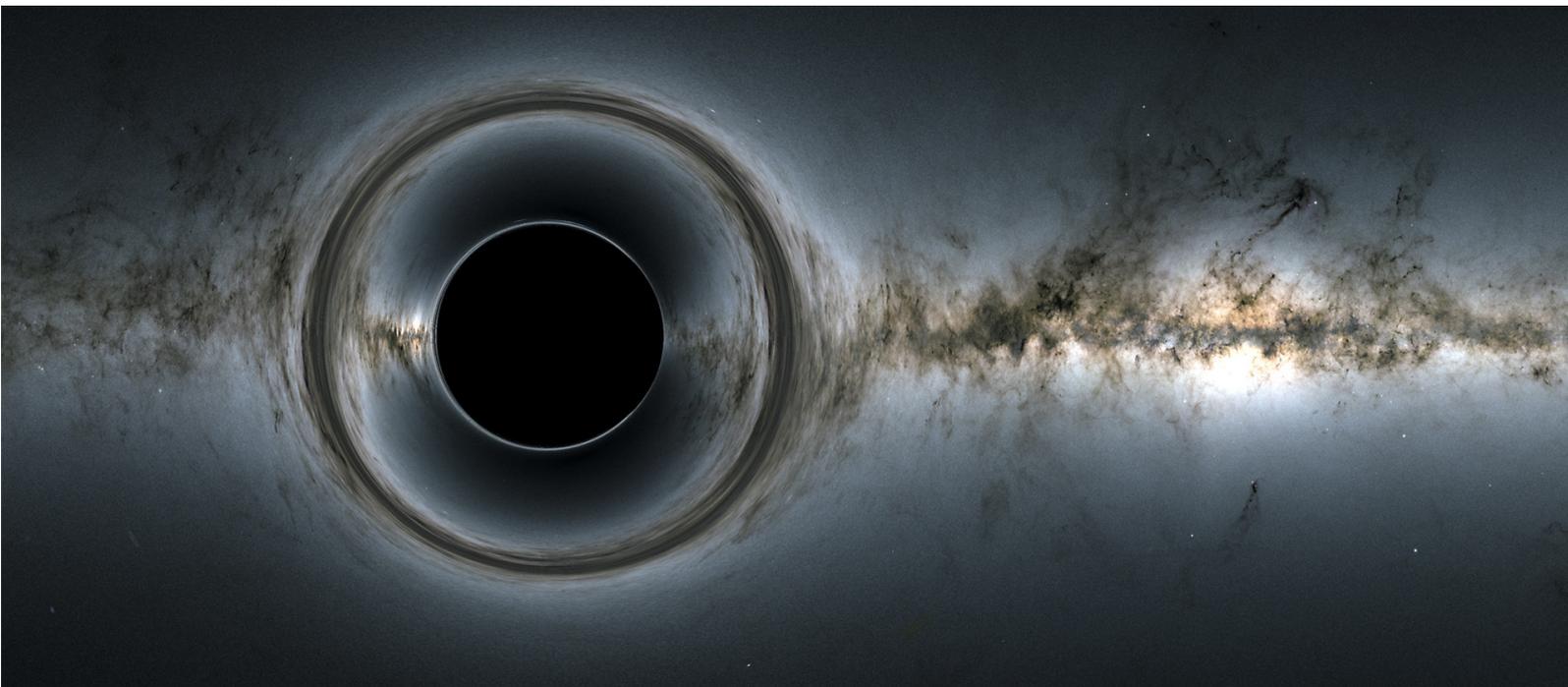
I recently met with Susan Alberti AC (businesswoman, philanthropist, and former Vice President of the Western Bulldogs Football Club) to discuss how best we could move forward with these changes. Susan sadly lost her daughter Danielle due to complications with Type 1 Diabetes and has been working tirelessly in this area.

I hope if we can get one State to take this up, the others may fall into line.

So where to from here? In the new year, DFA will begin a new strategy to help bring this to fruition and we'll be asking for your assistance — so keep a look out in the newsletter and on our Facebook page.

*Leanne Campbell*





## DONOR FAMILY AND RECIPIENT LETTERS BLACK HOLE

**Many of you will be aware of the letter writing scandal coming out of the Sydney Donate Life office in recent weeks.**

Up to 70 exchange letters were unsent from that office. Due to the strength and courage of the families involved they persisted with that office to find out what had happened to their unsent letters. DFA applauds the families involved that shows the strength of this community to stand up for what is right.

DFA asked the Commonwealth Department of Health for an independent review of what happened. They responded that they are satisfied with the remedial action taken.

The Commonwealth Department of Health should ask the 70 families if they are satisfied; after all, it was their letters. It appears that the government has no intention of letting anyone know what happened — or what remedial action will be put in place so it never happens again.

It is curious that the CEO of the Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) put out a public apology for not forwarding the unsent letters. DFA was invited to a workshop on letter writing by the CEO of the OTA and one other OTA staff member on 9 March 2018 in a meeting room

at the Sydney airport. Four DFA committee members gave up that day's work and funded their own transport to go to that workshop. One of DFA's recommendations, amongst many, was "*within five days, the letter sender is informed by Donate Life, by email or text, of the receipt of the letter and are thanked for their correspondence.*"

If this recommendation was adopted, the trauma suffered by those 70 families would have been avoided. It is interesting to note that it has been one year and nine months since that meeting and not one of our recommendations has been adopted. What we would really like to see is not just an apology but making it right.

DFA has been told that the OTA is reviewing the letter writing policy and has asked for comment when it is released. There is a very important distinction to be made here: the letters belong to the 70 families and all other families who write letters. It should be these families who own the policy and that they invite the OTA for comment — and then the families approve the final policy. In that way, we can be assured that families and recipients needs will be considered this time.

We will keep our members posted via our Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts.

## A Christmas Message from PlusLife

The decision to donate tissue from a loved one is an enormous leap of faith; trusting that those who will retrieve the tissue will honour the donation throughout the retrieval procedure, the processing of that tissue to produce essential transplant material, right through to ensuring that precious transplants reach the operating theatre on the day of surgery.

At PlusLife, we often speak about WHY we do what we do. It is in essence, based on the gift that donors and donor families give, with the end result that we can provide a life changing transplant to someone in need. Those of us who work in the tissue sector commit to care for your loved one, from the moment they are delivered into our hands, until the time the transplants are delivered for patient treatment.

Tissue transplants can improve the sight, wellbeing and mobility of patients with spinal deformities, those with complex joint problems caused by debilitating arthritis and trauma; and young patients with bone cancers, who may avoid amputation of a limb by receiving a bone transplant.

Having suddenly lost a very close family member recently, I can understand how painful and difficult times like Christmas can be for donor families.

On behalf of all at PlusLife, I wish each and every one of you a sense of peace in your heart; in the knowledge that your decision to donate will make such a difference in the lives of many patients.

With best wishes for a peaceful and safe Christmas.

**Anne Cowe**

CEO, PlusLife



# GRIEVING DURING THE HOLIDAYS

**Everyone deals with their grief differently. Special occasions like Christmas and New Year, can be especially confusing. Sean Dicks from DonateLife ACT has some suggestions.**

After a death we may feel unable to attach the same meanings to holidays and anniversaries as we had done before. Without our deceased relative, traditional family activities may no longer make sense. This can leave family members confused and without direction as the holiday period approaches and overwhelmed with emotion during times that would previously have carried positive expectations and experiences. This situation is further complicated by the fact that each family member will be dealing with grief differently.

It is important that family members take care of their basic needs – eating enough, not consuming too much alcohol; and trying to get enough sleep. They should allow others to help— either by asking for help or accepting the offers of help that family or friends may make. During their time of grief, family members may have had less contact with extended family members or friends. They could consider whether the holiday period would be a suitable opportunity to contact them again.

I would like to make a few suggestions that may help family members provide effective support for each other at this time: for the reasons given above, confusion, disorientation, and lack of direction is understandable. Individually, and as a family, members should try to accept that this is the case. This will help family members to be patient with each other as they gradually make sense of the world without their loved one. Some family members may have been thinking about seeing a counsellor, and it may be useful for them to take steps to arrange that.

Over the holiday period, family members could look for suitable ways of responding to the death and the holidays, slowly building confidence and some sense of control. This may at times mean spending time alone, and at other times spending time with others engaging in activities chosen because they are not overwhelming.

Of course, family members will not be able to read each other's minds. Instead, they will need to talk to each other about what they need. For example, if someone wanted to lie down for an hour, they could let another family member know, and perhaps ask them to let others know about the arrangement. That way, if someone notices that the family member is

not around, they will not start walking around shouting their name, or feel guilty, thinking that they may have neglected or upset the resting family member. Family members should listen carefully for the clues that other family members may give regarding what they may need.

Many families find it meaningful to create ways of acknowledging and remembering their deceased loved one at this time. Family members should accept that they may not all be ready for a particular activity and may need to split into smaller groups. For example, some members may find it meaningful to look at some photos and share stories of their time with their loved one, while other members may prefer a quiet visit to the grave or another special place where they feel close to their loved one. In both these examples, some members may wish to withdraw from the activity before others, and they should try to manage activities so that they can accommodate each other and avoid being overloaded.

**Sean Dicks**

Family Support Co-ordinator

DonateLife ACT



# DFA: THE CONFERENCE

**DFA held its inaugural Conference over two incredible days in October. The DFA Conference committee went about the task of putting together a time that would be of benefit to donor families and recipients; speakers and their topics had to be relevant to our members. Here's a rundown.**



From the feedback we received, we know that was achieved. The hard work put into the Conference, under the Chairmanship of Holly Northam, by all involved, certainly paid off.

## Day 1

After the Official Opening by Conference Chair, Holly Northam, and DFA Chair, Bruce McDowell, the Opening Address was given by Dr Anne Webster MP. Dr Webster personally relates to the miracle of organ and tissue donation, telling the story of her granddaughter's wonderful recovery after transplantation. Dr Webster is co-chair of Friends of Organ and Tissue Donation and will be a Champion in getting the message of the benefits of saying "yes" out there.

Leanne Campbell followed with a Keynote Address. Leanne is the mother of Brett who,

at age 21, became an organ donor. Leanne told the delegates what it was like to be the family at the bedside. Her detailed account of what her family had to go through, before and after Brett became a donor, was very powerful account of what families go through.

Professor Katrina Bramstedt, all the way from Milan, gave another Keynote. Prof. Bramstedt spoke about how those directly affected by organ and tissue donation should be included into the decision-making process. From her position of international advisor, she was able to relate best practice as seen from other countries. Her main message was of co-creation and the benefits it can bring for policy makers and those impacted.



Leanne Campbell

Janelle Colquhoun then presented her experience of being a recipient. Janelle's life story is nothing less than extraordinary. She spent her early adult life touring the world as an opera singer only to become slowed down by illness but soon overcame that following an organ transplant. Whilst blind, she spent a good part of her later years as a singer. Janelle kindly sang two songs for us at the end of the conference on Day 2. We would also like to thank Janelle's mum for coming along.

Sean Dicks spoke on research he was conducting; looking at the benefits of donor families and recipients meeting. This is a very important area of study



as there is a lot of interest being shown by both donor families and recipients in this area.

The day finished with two concurrent sessions — one with recipients speaking, and the other by donor families. Delegates got a better appreciation of what both sides go through following these recounts of personal experience in organ and tissue donation.

## Day 2

The second day started with Anne Cowie, CEO of PlusLife. Tissue donation is often the forgotten donation. Anne, in her role of managing tissue supplied to hospitals, showed just what comes from this very important donation process, presenting recipient stories about how their lives have changed.

Jayden Cummins' story was one of how much someone can bounce back. Jayden told of his extraordinary will to live, and how he now intends to live his life to the limit to show his donor's family just how grateful he is to have this second chance. Jayden's video *'If I could talk to my donor'* is critically acclaimed for the Thank You message it brings.

Julie Wilson told her story as the mother of Brodie, the young man featured in this issue's cover story. Brodie is a hero, having saved so many lives. Julie shared her added experience of having met the little girl who received one of Brodie's organ. The joy Julie felt from having met Brodie's recipient has helped her grief.

Graham Harrison is the father of Ben who passed away over 25 years ago. All through that time, Graham and Elayne have been the biggest supporters of donor families. and Graham has been the greatest advocate of they and recipients meeting. He told the conference of his and Elayne's experience in meeting one of Ben's recipients who remained a long time family friend.

The next presentation was from Bruce McDowell covering the Human Tissue Act relating to confidentiality. All Acts around Australia include the same clause (i.e: information cannot be shared unless the owner of the information gives consent). A letter from DonateLife has confirmed this understanding,



explaining they do not pass information to others on the basis of not wanting to, rather than because it would be illegal. What is clear is that the legislation is adequate; delegates need to address DonateLife's reluctance in furthering donor families and recipients meeting.

Conference Chair, Holly Northam, addressed the research she and fellow University of Canberra academics are intending to undertake. It will be based on the *Donor and Recipients Group Australia* Facebook page. From here, Holly will collate what is important to Donor Families and Recipients. This invaluable research will be shared with the wider donor family and recipient community and (hopefully) inform future policy makers.

The conference wound up with all delegates breaking into two groups where they workshopped with group facilitators to identify what is important to them and how we should take action. The outcomes from this will be invaluable in providing DFA with direction in *"Where to from here."*



Not in any specific order, the delegates indicated the following items were important:

1. Transparency – government departments don't work in true transparency with the community which only facilitates mistrust and can hamper awareness efforts. This could be improved by involving community more.
2. All Donor Families and Recipients Letter writing – donor families and recipients should own the process (the letters are theirs and not the government's). There is no need to treat donor families and recipients like Corrective Services treats its prisoners (that is, opening or defacing their mail, or not sending on if they so desire). The policy on corresponding needs to be put into the hands of those who own the letters.
3. Community education – delegates would like to see more emphasis on community education as provided by donor families and recipients.
4. Tissue Acts – all reference to legislation being the reason for not allowing donor families and recipients to meet, or why correspondence is defaced, should be removed from all communication materials (eg: pamphlets).
5. Training for health care professionals – should involve donor families rather than by role play, and needs to be especially directed at doctors.
6. Social media – DFA needs to become far more active in social media (Twitter and Instagram) to let the community know what is important to donor families and recipients.
7. Advertising DFA – it is important for Donor Families to be aware there is an organisation out there especially for them. DFA will look at getting the word out.
8. Post-donation support – need more support for Donor Families and they need to be aware that DFA is out there.
9. OTA Board representation – it is currently misrepresented with four of the seven members being doctors (Chair and Vice Chair are also doctors). The views of doctors and donor families can be quite different and no one particular group should control the board. The Minister needs to ensure an even distribution of thought.
10. Meeting – all donor families and recipients who wish to meet should be able and assisted to do so.

This is by no means the full extent of what delegates came up with. We hope to have a full report on this part of the conference in the future which will be posted on the DFA website.

With that, the conference closed with two beautiful songs from Janelle and the tying of "honour leaves" to a tree which will be planted in the University grounds.

Conference delegates concluded the two day event with a dinner to celebrate the friendship of all those who attended.

On behalf of all involved in bringing the conference together, I would like to thank the speakers and the delegates for making this a memorable and worthwhile meeting of the organ and tissue donation community.



More images from the conference



# YOUR DONOR FAMILIES AUSTRALIA COMMITTEE

## Bruce McDowell — Chair (WA)



Bruce McDowell is a proud Donor Dad following daughter, Alysha's death in a 2008 car accident.

Bruce has been Donor Families Australia Chair since its 2013 inception. He's passionate about raising awareness of the importance of Australian organ and tissue

donation to increase donation rates.

## Leanne Campbell — Vice Chair (VIC)



Leanne and her husband Rick raised three children in Diamond Creek but lost 21 year old Brett in 2009, becoming a donor family.

Lack of support during and after their donation experience compelled Leanne to speak up for and become involved with DFA, and to

connect with others who have walked this journey.

## Helen Day — Treasurer (NT)



Helen, mother of four, (21 to 29), and two grandchildren, lives in Darwin.

In 2012, Helen's son, Stewart, was killed in a freak motorbike accident, just before turning 24. He'd always put others first and it was a blessing he saved six lives.

Helen's would like to see more support for donor families and to support families in the Northern Territory.

## Philippa Delahoy — Secretary (NSW)



Philippa is a donor wife, following the sudden passing of her husband Scott in 2011.

His kidneys freed two young people from a lifetime of dialysis and his corneas went to medical research. Scott, a huge sci-fi fan, would be amused by his organs living on long after him.

Philippa became involved in Donor Families Australia in 2017.

## Philippa Waldon (WA)



Philippa's husband, Peter, died suddenly from a brain aneurysm, at 61 years after having this beautiful man in her life for 38 years.

Having met one of Peter's recipients which helped her cope, she'd like to see every donor family and recipient given the right to

meet, and exchange letters, if they both wish. Co-operation, education and listening properly will hugely increase organ and tissue donation in Australia.

## Kelli McDonald (QLD)



In 2013, Kelli's mum, Maree, suffered a brain aneurysm and gifted three people a second chance at life.

Although they had exceptional care, she feels current post-support systems for donor families could be improved.

Kelli is passionate about DonateLife's *Have the chat that saves lives!* campaign.

## Graham Harrison (NSW)



Graham and wife Elayne when they sadly lost son Ben (at 10) in 1993.

They became involved with Transplant Australia and met Ben's kidney recipient.

Graham is heavily involved with DFA to improve donor outcomes and increase our donation rates.

## Jann Eastley (NSW)



Jann joined the DFA committee after losing her brother in 2016 from a boating accident. His donation saved three people.

She's passionate about promoting organ donation and supporting other donor families and recipients.

## Holly Northam (ACT)



Dr Holly Northam OAM has 30 years' experience as a nurse and midwife.

Her Churchill Fellowship and PhD study, "*Hope for a peaceful death and organ donation*" identified more must be done to help families making donation decisions.

Holly is head of Nursing at University of Canberra, and part of Donor Families Australia, Sharelife Australia and the Coalition to End Organ Harvesting in China.

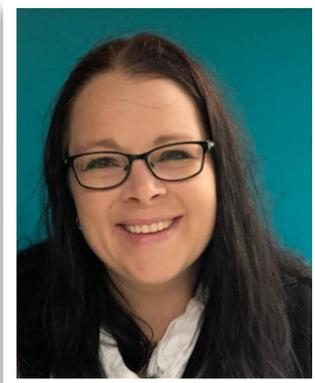
## Barry Mewett (ACT)



Barry became a donor husband following the sudden death of his wife, Jean, in 2005.

Multiple organs were donated, enabling a number of people to be restored. Jean would've been amazed and profoundly grateful to know so many people were assisted.

## Rebecca Free (TAS)



Rebecca is proud donor family member in Tasmania after sadly losing her beautiful Mum to a brain aneurysm in 2010. From this complete tragedy, they witnessed many times the power of donation.

The journey is unique, and she enjoys meeting and assisting other families in the same situation.

## Julie Wilson (VIC)



Julie, a donor mother, after 18 year old son Brodie gave the gift of life to five people in 2013 following a severe asthma attack.

Julie met one of Brodie's liver recipients, seven year old Alex in May 2019.

## Jackie Robson (SA)



Jackie, recently retired Melbourne Montessori centre principal, now lives in Adelaide, has three children and a grandson (with another on the way). She lost her husband three years ago when he suffered a catastrophic brain haemorrhage.

# OUR VISION

To continue the gift of donors to save the lives of suffering people in our community and to care for those who have donated



Donor Families AUSTRALIA

**Care**

**Support**

**Advocate**

**Educate**

Provide care and support to families who have donated their loved one's organs and /or tissues

Advocate and give donor families a voice

Educate the community about the benefits of donation, whilst respecting, acknowledging and supporting those touched by donation decisions

*...in 2019*

**704**

TOTAL MEMBERS

**432**

Donor Families

**224**

Recipients / Families (Associates)

**48**

Medical or Other (Affiliates)



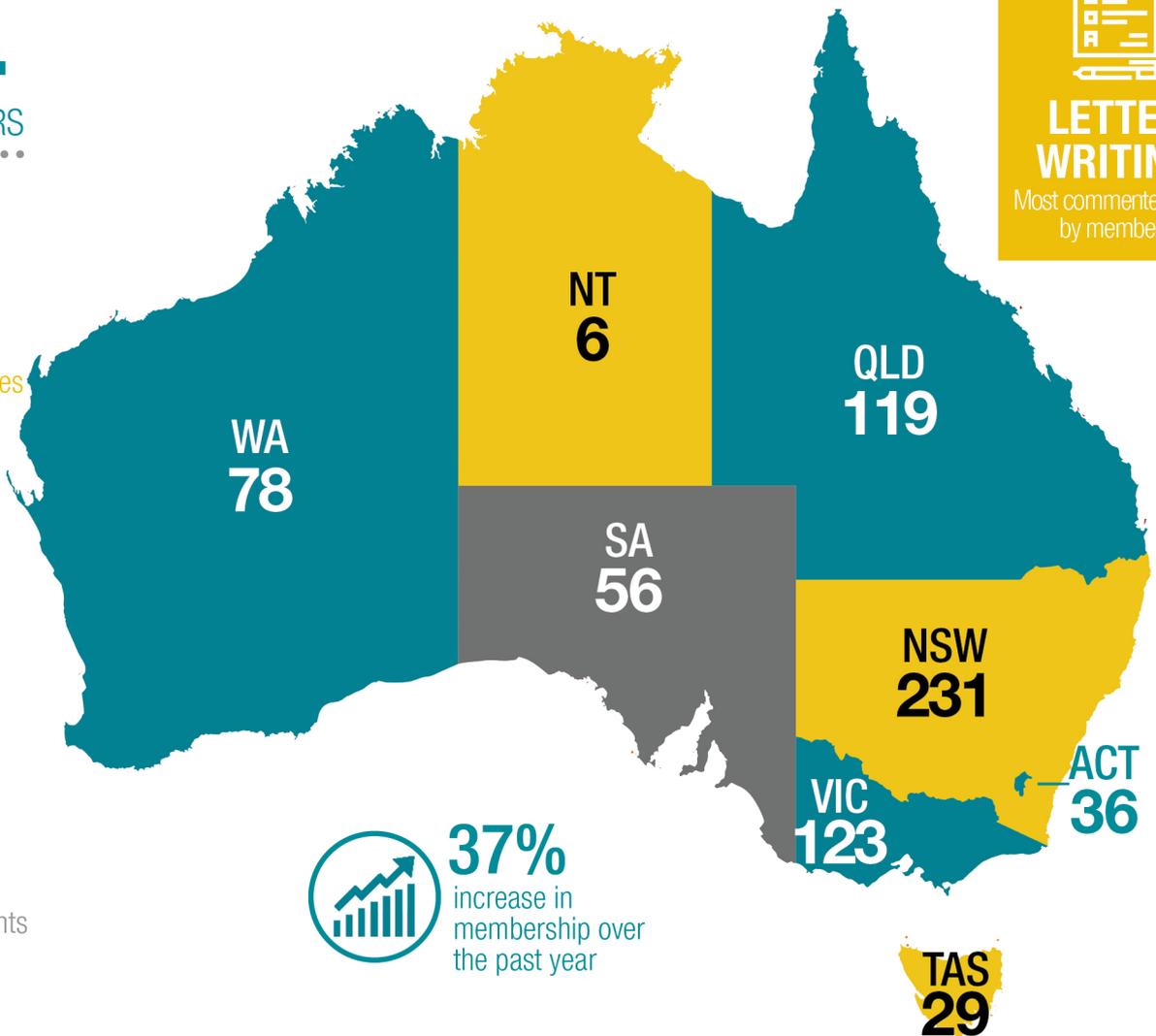
**3,001**

Facebook Donor and Recipients Group Members



**37%**

increase in membership over the past year



**LETTER WRITING**

Most commented topic by members

To find out more and to become a member please visit our website at [donorfamiliesaustralia.org](http://donorfamiliesaustralia.org)