



Donor Heroes Night May 18 encourages Australians to talk about organ and tissue donation.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 10, 2021

Donor Families Australia is encouraging Australians to 'leave a porch light on' in support of organ and tissue donation for their annual Donor Heroes' Night on May 18. Last year the online event attracted 50,000 participants, and this year's goal is to 'add an extra zero' to that number. It costs nothing to take part in the event, with participants being asked to take a photo of their front porch light and upload it to the Donor Families Australia Facebook page with a supporting message.

According to Donate Life Australia organ and tissue donation levels declined by 16 per cent in 2020, and there are currently 1,650 Australians currently waitlisted for an organ transplant. A total of 1,270 Australian lives were saved through the generosity of 463 deceased organ donors last year, with 9 out of 10 families agreeing to donation if their family member was registered on the Australian donor register.

Donor Heroes' Night organiser, Mr. Graham Harrison, lost his 10-year-old son Ben in 1993, and May 18 marks the anniversary of Ben's passing. As an organ donor, Ben's heart and lungs went to a 12-year-old girl, and his kidneys saved a 50-year-old man.

The Donor Families Australia website has a [dedicated event page](#) with downloadable flyers and donor hero stories to help journalists, schools and interested organisations spread the word about the event. They also have family members who are willing to speak to the press.

Donor Heroes' Night starts at 6pm on May 18th and participants are asked to upload their photos to the Donor Families Australia Facebook page which can be found at @DonorFamiliesAustralia.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.donorfamiliesaustralia.org/donor-heroes-night> and a downloadable poster is available on the page or via this link [here](#).

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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Bruce McDowell // Chairman // Mobile: 0427 645 262

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BOILERPLATE: Donor Families Australia is a national member-based independent support and advocacy group comprising families who have donated their loved ones' organs and tissue. It's the only organisation of its kind in Australia specifically dedicated to Donor Families.