



Donor Families Australia celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary

**DONOR HEROES' NIGHT 18<sup>th</sup> May**



# **Shine a light for organ and tissue 'Donor Heroes' at 6pm on May 18!**

Australian households are reminded to light a candle or shine a porch light in support of the thousands of donor heroes who have changed a person's life through their generous act of organ and tissue donation. Commencing at 6pm on the evening of May 18, 2023

Donor Heroes' Night is a free online event designed to commemorate and celebrate the lives of approximately 25,000 Australian organ and tissue donors who have given the ultimate gift so that others may live.

Donor Families Australia has a broad selection of 'donor hero' family members who are happy to share their stories with the media. Approximately 1,750 Australians are currently waitlisted for an organ transplant, and an additional 13,000 people are on dialysis – some of whom may need a kidney transplant one day. In 2021, 203 people received a kidney from a living donor, more than 2,413 people had their eyesight restored through a corneal transplant, and over 10,000 people received tissue (e.g., musculoskeletal, heart, skin) transplants – all thanks to the life-changing gift of donation. Since 2009, more than 15,500 Australians have received life-saving organs, while deceased donors consist of: 5,450 organ donors, 16,046 eye donors and 35,423 tissue donors.

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 commences at sunset on May 18 and participants are asked to upload their photos of either lit candles or porch lights to the Donor Families Australia Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DonorFamiliesAustralia>.

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

Associated hashtags: #DonorHeroesNight      #DonorHeroes      #DonorFamilies  
#leavealighton   #forevergrateful

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

Bruce McDowell // Chairman and Media Contact // Mobile: 0427 645 262

Graham Harrison // Event Coordinator & Media Contact // Mobile: 0421 697 048

Warwick Duncan | Recipient & Media Contact | Mobile: 0422 714 014

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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.

# Shine a light for organ and tissue 'Donor Heroes' at 6pm on May 18!

Australian households are reminded to light a candle or shine a porch light in support of the thousands of donor heroes who have changed a person's life through their generous act of organ and tissue donation. Commencing at 6pm on the evening of May 18, 2022, Donor Heroes' Night is a free online event designed to commemorate and celebrate the lives of approximately 20,000 Australian organ and tissue donors who have given the ultimate gift so that others may live.

Donor Families Australia has a broad selection of 'donor hero' family members who are happy to share their stories with the media. Approximately 1,850 Australians are currently waitlisted for an organ transplant, and an additional 13,000 people are on dialysis – some of whom may need a kidney transplant one day. In 2021, 200 people received a kidney from a living donor, more than 2,400 people had their eyesight restored through a corneal transplant, and over 10,000 people received tissue (e.g., musculoskeletal, heart, skin) transplants – all thanks to the life-changing gift of donation.

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 18 and participants are asked to upload their photos of either lit candles or porch lights to the Donor Families Australia Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DonorFamiliesAustralia>.

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

Associated hastags: #DonorHeroesNight #DonorHeroes #DonorFamilies #leavealighton #forevergrateful

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