



Maureen



In 2010, we lost our beloved mother, Maureen Kaye. We were a close-knit family of two daughters, their partners and one grandchild at the time of Mum's passing. Mum and Dad worked hard to raise us in a loving and supportive home, allowing us to do the things we enjoyed. "Mum's taxi" worked hard of a weekend, running us girls to and from sport, horses, friends' houses – all whilst supporting her own parents who lived with us and needed ongoing care. Mum just loved to care for and help others.

One night we received a call from Dad who told us that Mum had suffered what was thought to be a minor stroke. Mum was taken to the Royal Hobart Hospital, where we were advised that she had suffered a catastrophic aneurism. This was a massive shock to our family. As the hours went by, we were asked about the possibility of organ donation.

We had no idea of Mum's wishes, as we never even talked about death, let alone organ and tissue donation. So, we as a family discussed what we thought Mum would want. Mum was the most loving, generous, compassionate woman who always put others before herself. As a family, we made the decision to proceed with the donation believing if Mum were able to make that decision, it is what she too would have chosen.

The retrieval and gifting of Mum's organs occurred on a special day for our family. It was Mum and Dad's eldest daughter Cassie's 39th birthday. 39 years from the day Mum gave life to her first born, she was again giving the hope of new life to five others around the country.

Receiving cards from recipients of Mum's organs has given us strength through this journey. It gives us great peace to know that Mum's organs have been accepted by these recipients, and it gives us further strength to know that Mum would be so proud of our decision.

Over the years since Mum's passing, we have become passionate advocates for promoting organ and tissue donation. Being part of Donor Families Australia brings a great feeling of support and empowerment as we share our journey with others who have had the same experiences as our family. It's one thing to lose a loved one, but to be part of a Donor Family takes things to a completely different level. There is comfort in being part of a group where everyone understands – and where you don't feel so alone in your journey.

Only three short months ago, we lost our dear Dad. Unfortunately, Dad was unable to be an organ donor due to his illness, but he was a strong advocate for organ donation and attended many events with us over the years. He was so proud of his beautiful wife, and the gift that she left behind.