



Kyall

Our son Kyall was a popular 22-year-old apprentice electrician when he was fatally injured in a car accident on 20 January 2013. Six months before his accident he spoke to his mother and I about his desire to donate his organs in the event of his death.

Parents should never experience having to bury their child. It has been several years now and the journey has been hard. You can never fill the void you experience with the loss of a child.

We respected his wishes but never dreamt that we would still be around to honour those wishes. We have often been asked whether it was a difficult decision to make at the time we were told he was slowly passing away. It wasn't as if we knew that we were giving him his final wish. The hardest decision for us was to accept that he was gone.

The nurses from DonateLife ACT discussed the organ and tissue donation process with us and then coordinated the multi-state retrieval process. Through the gift of his many organs donated, Kyall gave the gift of life to eight recipients. Kyall's heart went to a middle-aged man, his lungs to another and his liver was shared to a middle-aged man and a six year-old child received a small section of his liver. His kidneys and pancreas went to a middle-aged woman. A 30 year-old woman received one cornea and the other cornea went to a 70 year-old woman who is now able to drive again and read to children in school.

Kyall always had a big smile that stretched across his face, which lit up a room. He lived a full life for his short 22 years and loved to travel, read and party and be with his many friends and family. The title of his personal book of life written in bold letters was 'Keep Calm and Party Hard!'

We have been overwhelmed by letters of thanks and gratitude from Kyall's thankful recipients and their families. It gives us great comfort knowing that these people have had the chance to live on through Kyall's precious gifts. It is our wish that people follow Kyall's example and register to become an organ and tissue donors. In a time of immense grief, our decision was made easier as we already knew our son's wish, it is so important that if you register, that you talk to your family and friends about your organ and tissue decision.