

Donor Heroes Night to celebrate Sally McCanna's life-saving gesture



Sally McCanna with her father Paul McCanna.

A Griffith woman's life-saving gesture is set to be honoured by her family during a national night of commemoration.

In 2014, Sally McCanna tragically passed away following a single-car accident in Griffith.

A 29-year-old with a "vibrant and outgoing personality", Sally had insisted to her parents from an early age that she be an organ donor should anything happen to her.

"It was Sally's wish that if she was to die, then she would save someone else from dying by giving them the gift of life," her mother Robyn McCanna said.

On Mother's Day that year, Sally's heart, liver and kidneys were donated to four in-need Australians, a gesture which saved three lives and provided another with precious extra months with their family.

Sally's heroic donation will be celebrated next week as part of 'Donor Heroes Night', a commemoration of the more than 10,000 Australians who have donated their organs and tissue since the 1980s.

Donor Families Australia is asking all Australians to turn on their porch or balcony light and post a photo on social media on May 18, in celebration of the heartfelt donations made by so many late heroes.

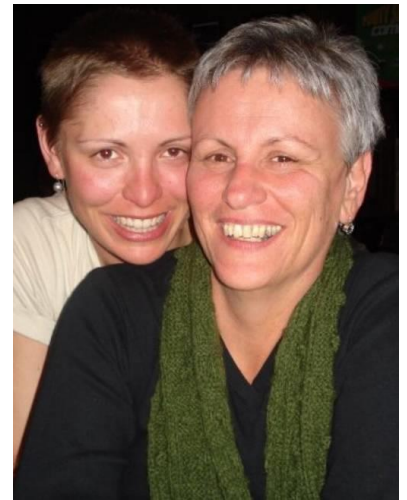
The event also aims to raise awareness of organ and tissue donation and encourage people to "have conversations with their loved ones about the importance of being an organ and tissue donor".

In 2020, the event saw nearly 50,000 acknowledgements posted online and Donor Families Australia is aiming to double that tally this year.

Robyn McCanna says her and her family will spend the night remembering Sally and the lives she saved.

"We are incredibly proud of our daughter and sister, both in life and in death, she was a kind and thoughtful soul who always gave more than she took," Mrs McCanna said.

You can register to become an organ donor by visiting the Australian Organ Donor Register at humanservices.gov.au



Sally with her mother Robyn



Helen (left) was a recipient of one of Sally McCanna's organs. Pictured with her best friend Kristen (right) and Robyn McCanna (middle).