



# DONOR HEROES' NIGHT

## Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024



### Australians are reminded to 'leave a light on' to support organ and tissue donation.

### Media Release #2

Australian households are being asked to show their support for Donor Heroes' Night and organ and tissue donation by uploading a picture of their porch light or candle to [www.facebook.com/DonorFamiliesAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/DonorFamiliesAustralia) with a supporting comment. Commencing at 6pm on the evening of **May 18, 2024, Donor Heroes Night** will be celebrating the lives of approximately 25,000 Australian organ and tissue donors who have given the ultimate gift so that others may live.

Mr Bruce McDowell, Chairman of Donor Families Australia, lost his 19-year-old daughter in a car accident in late 2008. Following her death, Alysha's tissues and organs helped to transform the lives of 30 individuals. *"As a family we could not be prouder of what Alysha has done for others. While the grief of losing our only daughter will never diminish, knowing that she has contributed to our community helps us to deal with the pain"* he said.

Donor Families Australia encourage everyone to use Donor Heroes Night as an opportunity to have a conversation with their loved ones about their wishes to donate and be sure to register their intent on the national organ & tissue donor registry. Now in its fifth year, Donor Families Australia is hoping to achieve 500,000 to participate across all social media platforms.

Over 1,800 Australians are currently waitlisted for organ transplants and 14,000 patients are currently being supported on dialysis machines. While dialysis through the Public Health System remains free, the cost to the National Health bill is in the region of one billion dollars per year. Hence the importance of raising awareness and improving availability of organ and tissue donation within the Community.

The DFA Facebook Page is officially open from 6pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May and are encouraged to upload a photo of their porch light/candle and photo of their Donor Hero where applicable together with a supporting comment to <https://www.facebook.com/DonorFamiliesAustralia>

Please also spread the word and utilise the following **hashtags**: #DonorHeroesNight #DonorHeroes #DonorFamilies #leavealighton #forevergrateful

Further information on Donor Heroes' Night and the benefits of organ and tissue donation can be found at: <https://www.donorfamiliesaustralia.org/donor-heroes-night>

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

**Bruce McDowell** // Chairman & Media Contact // Mobile: 0427 645 262

**Leanne Campbell** // Deputy Chair & Media Contact // Mobile: 0422 123 014

**Graham Harrison** // Event Coordinator // Mobile: 0421 697 048

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STATISTICS Quoted: are obtained from the DonateLife website.

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.

<https://www.donorfamiliesaustralia.org/>