

Organ Donation New Zealand New Zealand's official donor agency 

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# **ORGAN DONATION NEW ZEALAND**

About Organ Donation New Zealand	Organ Donation New Zealand (ODNZ) is the national service for deceased organ and tissue donation. It is managed through the Auckland District Health Board and has offices at the Greenlane Clinical Centre in Auckland. ODNZ co-ordinates all organ and some tissue donation from deceased donors in New Zealand and the donor co-ordinators provide information and ongoing support for those families who have generously donated organs or tissues. ODNZ works with health professionals in donor hospitals to ensure that processes
	for deceased donation are nationally consistent and of the highest medical, ethical and legal standards.
	The Guiding Principles of ODNZ are:
	1. Every opportunity for deceased organ donation should be recognised by Intensive Care Unit (ICU) staff and every family should have donation discussed with them by a health care professional with compassion, respect and appropriate knowledge and skill. Donation should be discussed with all families irrespective of whether the word 'donor' is on the driver licence.
	<ol> <li>The process of organ donation must accord with good medical practice, ethical standards, and the law. The Human Tissue Act (2008) requires consent before organs or tissue may be removed from a deceased person for transplantation.</li> <li>The family's decision about donation should always be respected. All donors</li> </ol>
	come out of human tragedy and donation by the family is voluntary.
	ODNZ provides education for health professionals, supplies information to the media and responds to public enquiries.
This Report	This report outlines the activities of ODNZ and includes an authoritative account of organ donation and transplantation activity in New Zealand during 2017.
	It is intended to be a valuable source of information for health professionals involved in organ and tissue donation and transplantation; and for the general community.
	For their assistance with information in this report we gratefully acknowledge Helen Twohill from the New Zealand National Eye Bank; Jill Faulkner from the New Zealand Heart Valve Bank; Vladimir Slyshkov from the New Zealand Skin Bank; Helen Gibbs from the New Zealand Heart and Lung Transplant Service; Margaret Johnston from the New Zealand Liver Transplant Unit; Dr Nick Cross, Clinical Director, National Renal Transplant Service.

## From the ODNZ Medical Specialists

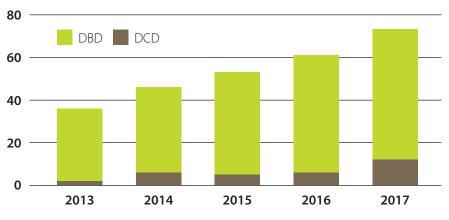
Organ Donation New Zealand (ODNZ) sincerely thanks all the families who agreed to organ and tissue donation in 2017.

It is important to acknowledge and remember that all donors come out of human tragedy and that organ and tissue donation would not be possible without the generosity of families at a very difficult time.

In the past year, there were 73 donors who donated organs following death, enabling 215 recipients to receive kidney, liver, lung, heart or pancreas transplants. Many more people received tissue transplants (eye tissue, heart valves and skin) from these donors.

Of the 73 deceased donors, 61 were donors after brain death (DBD, where the brain is dead but the heart has not yet stopped), compared with 34 DBD donors in 2013 (a 79% increase over five years). 12 were donors after circulatory death (DCD, after the heart has stopped), compared with 2 DCD donors in 2013 (a 500% increase). There is the potential for a further increase in the number of DCD donations.

ODNZ has continued to provide training for ICU staff on the DCD process and in 2017 the first DCD lung donation was facilitated. Until recently DCD donation only included liver, kidneys and tissues.



#### Deceased organ donation in New Zealand

The annual number of deceased organ donors in New Zealand has doubled over the last five years; from 36 in 2013 to 73 in 2017.

The steady rise in the number of donors is associated with a large increase in the recognition of opportunities for organ donation, an increase in discussions with families and an increase in consultations with ODNZ donor co-ordinators and medical specialists.

In addition to these 73 organ donors, ODNZ facilitated 60 tissue-only donations from people who died in a hospital ward, hospice or at home.

In 2017 ODNZ has continued to focus on education; facilitating an induction day and training for link nurses, hospital study days throughout NZ, a Core Donor Family Conversation Workshop (cFDC) and ICU Donation Audit Meetings. In addition to these, ODNZ organised education sessions for Māori health professionals in Auckland, Bay of Plenty and Christchurch to provide information and encourage discussion about organ and tissue donation.

	In July, the Ministry of Health released the Deceased Organ Donation and Transplantation Strategy. The strategy included additional funding for the expansion of ICU Link nurse and Link doctor roles at 19 District Health Boards. This funding will be implemented in 2018.
	We could like to thank our colleagues at ODNZ, the Link teams, ICU nurses and doctors, and other health professionals involved in organ and tissue donation, for their support, dedication to donation and transplantation in New Zealand and willingness to offer families the option of donation in difficult circumstances.
Staffing	Janice Langlands (Team Leader), Mary O'Donnell, Lauren Sprenger, Sue Garland and Annette Flanagan, are the ODNZ donor co-ordinators. They provide a 24-hour consultation, advice and support service to health professionals involved in organ donation and tissue donation.
	Drs Stephen Streat (clinical director), James Judson and Emma Merry are the ODNZ medical specialists. Drs Jo Ritchie and Chris Poynter assisted with medical specialist on-call in 2017. The medical specialists provide a 24-hour support and advice service for the donor co-ordinators and health professionals on all aspects of the donation process.
	Rebecca Oliver, communications advisor, is responsible for providing information to health professionals, media and the public. Leeny Gin commenced as team administrator in February 2017.
Link Teams	The Link teams in donor hospitals consist of ICU Link nurses, operating theatre
	(OT) Link nurses and ICU Link doctors. They are the local experts and liaison for organ and tissue donation for their hospital.
	In 2017, the Minister of Health allocated further funding to increase hospital- based capacity for deceased donation. The additional resource for ICU medical and nursing donation Link roles will commence in 2018.

## **ODNZ ACTIVITIES**

### Donor Family Support

The donor co-ordinators provide information and support for donor families both before and after organ and tissue donation. This includes the offer of hand prints and locks of hair, providing general information about the outcome of their donation and facilitating anonymous communication between recipients and donor families and vice versa.

Thanksgiving Services are held annually and respectfully acknowledge the generosity of families who have donated organs and tissues following the death of a family member. Families of donors, recipients and their families, and health professionals involved in both organ donation and transplantation are invited to these services. Services were held in May 2017 at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Auckland, St Paul's Cathedral in Dunedin and the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul. There were around 1000 attendees at these services.

### **Education**

#### Donation after circulatory death (DCD)

In 2017, DCD implementation commenced in Tauranga and Whangarei Hospitals as well as Auckland City Hospital's Cardiovascular Service. Further education will be provided to health professionals in these hospitals and departments in 2018.

DCD began in New Zealand in 2008 with liver, kidney and tissue donation. The first DCD lung donation was facilitated in 2017.

#### Core Family Donor Conversation Workshop (cFDC)

A cFDC Workshop was held in Auckland on 24 and 25 August 2017. This twoday workshop was developed by the Australian Government Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) and provides training for health professionals working in organ donation. The workshops aim to increase knowledge and skills for health professionals having conversations with families of potential donors. The workshop was facilitated by Australians Dr Steve Philpott and Bernie Dwyer and was attended by 17 ICU nurses and 17 ICU doctors.

Dr James Judson, ODNZ medical specialist, and Janice Langlands, donor co-ordinator, attended to represent ODNZ.

Once again the workshop was successful, with very positive feedback.

ODNZ plans to hold another cFDC workshop in 2018 and strongly recommends attendance to all ICU specialists and trainees, Link nurses, nurses and other health professionals involved in organ and tissue donation.

#### Link Nurse Workshop

The ICU and OT Link nurses attended a two-day workshop in Auckland on 9 and 10 November.

On the first day of the workshop, the OT Link nurses visited the transplant services and tissue banks in Auckland in small groups and then provided feedback on their visits to the larger group. Meanwhile the ICU Link nurses attended the ICU Donation Audit meeting along with their medical colleagues.

The focus for the second day was on supporting families of those who have died following suicide and attendees were very moved to hear a family's personal

perspective. The Link nurses also heard from Dr Tony Fernando who gave a captivating talk on *Compassion Science – why we (should) care and how to care better*.

#### Link Nurse Induction Day

An education day was held in Auckland in May for ICU and OT Link nurses new to their roles. The programme included an introduction to the ODNZ team, an overview of the process of organ and tissue donation, retrieval processes and talks from experienced ICU and OT Link nurses. The ICU Link nurses had a practical session on data entry for the ICU Donation Audit and a session on physiological support of the potential donor in the ICU. There were 22 Link nurses who attended, including 13 ICU Link nurses and nine OT Link nurses.

#### Expanded Link Nurse Study day

A study day for the Expanded Link nurses was organised by the Middlemore Hospital ICU Link nurses in June. This day focused on the completion of documentation required for organ and tissue donation and communication with donor families. It also provided the Expanded Link nurses with an opportunity to share ideas and resources.

#### **ICU Donation Audit**

Donation Audit Meetings were held in Auckland in June and November and were attended by ICU Link nurses and doctors. ODNZ is grateful to the ICU Link nurses who continue to collect and enter data for this audit\*.

Together with donor co-ordinators, Dr James Judson continued to visit hospitals and ICUs to provide education and feedback on their own data. Sites visited were: Christchurch, Whangarei, Middlemore, Dunedin, Wellington and DCCM at Auckland City Hospital.

#### Māori Health Education

Education sessions were held for Māori health professionals to provide information, dispel myths on organ and tissue donation and encourage more conversations about donation. The sessions were held at Te Manu Toroa in Te Puke, Auckland City Hospital for Auckland and Waitakere Māori health teams and at Christchurch Hospital for Canterbury Ngā Ratonga Hauora. These sessions began with an overview of organ donation and transplantation from Dr Stephen Streat, followed by a Māori donor family and a recipient who spoke about their personal experiences with organ donation and transplantation.

#### Study Days and Health Professional Education

In 2017 education for health professionals (full days, half days or educational sessions) was held in the following hospitals.

North Shore (1)	Taranaki (1)
Auckland City (2)	Hawke's Bay (2)
Middlemore (2)	Wellington (1)
Waikato (1)	Christchurch (2)
Tauranga (1)	Timaru (1)
Rotorua (1)	Dunedin (1)

\* Summary data for 2017 unavailable at time of printing

This education provided nursing staff from ICUs and OTs, and other health professionals involved in donation and transplantation with information about the organ and tissue donation process.

A "difficult conversations" workshop for Middlemore Hospital ICU staff was facilitated by Dr Emma Merry, Sue Garland and Janice Langlands along with ICU Link nurse Jo Farrell and ICU Link doctor Jo Ritchie.

ODNZ staff also spoke at a Bereavement Study Day facilitated by the ICU Link nurses at Auckland City Hospital's DCCM and CVICU.

Other education sessions were provided by the donor co-ordinators for health professionals at hospital wards and hospices, and for nursing students and postgraduate nurses at educational institutes and universities.

Feedback from the participants at these study days and educational sessions was very positive.

### Communication

#### **ODNZ Newsletters**

A hard copy newsletter providing news and information for staff in donor hospitals was produced by ODNZ in September and December 2017. These newsletters featured information about organ and tissue donation and transplantation, plus stories from heart, lung and kidney recipients and a donor family.

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The Organ Donation New Zealand websi updated to make information about organ p readers.		He was a loving, giving person who always	T	related activities in our Intensive Care Un donation audit database was set up in 20	its (ICU's) since the 08.	1. 14		1.80
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visitors to the site can view four new vide and Simon who share their personal expe			And Address of Concession	system. In brief, Wales has a population ICU's, and recently introduced an "cot ou	of 3.1 million and 14		the "opt out" law was introdu	uced
about her lung transplant journey. Welling Poynter also gives his perspective on the		Densition Research From		to organ donation. This involved establish	ring a donor register		organ donation in Wales.	
ODNZ would like to thank Wikitoria, Simo		Stocks a Donar Count		with four options for people to express the regarding organ donation.	eir future wishes	Philadelphia was an	isident and CEO of Gift of Lift nother excellent speaker who	o pre
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#### Public Awareness

In 2017 ODNZ facilitated a wide variety of print, television, radio and online media coverage to educate the general public about organ donation and to encourage people to have a conversation about donation with their families.

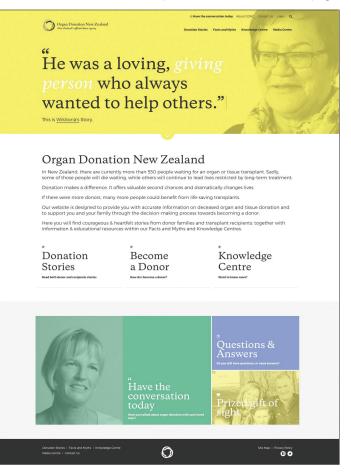
The ODNZ team responded to over 100 public enquiries from the 24-hour 0800 number (0800 4DONOR) and answered more than 200 email requests for information about organ donation.

Pamphlets and posters were distributed by recipients to libraries, schools, doctor's surgeries, Citizen Advice Bureaus and at community events.

#### **ODNZ** Website

The ODNZ public website www.donor.co.nz features stories from donor families, recipients and health professionals, and encourages families to have the conversation about organ donation. The Facts and Myths section has been developed to answer frequently asked questions about donation, address common misconceptions and to provide general information and statistics.

In 2017 there were 16,888 unique visitors and over 62,000 page views.



#### **ODNZ Link Nurse Communication**

In 2017 an additional secure website was developed for the ODNZ Link nurses providing resources, news and information. The Link nurses receive a monthly e-newsletter with relevant news and links to recently added material on the extranet site.

### Conferences and Meetings

#### Australia and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Regional Meeting Wellington, 5-7 April

Drs Emma Merry and James Judson attended this meeting. Emma presented a paper entitled "What is the potential for organ donation in patients presenting to Emergency Departments?" and James presented another on "Deceased Organ Donation in New Zealand: Success of a quality improvement programme".

Emma won the prize for best paper.

#### American Transplant Congress Chicago, 30 April-3 May

Dr James Judson attended this conference and found it interesting to learn more from the perspective of the American transplant professionals.

#### Australasian Transplant Coordinators Association Conference Brisbane, 8 May

Sue Garland attended this conference for donor and recipient co-ordinators. The conference gave Sue the opportunity to meet Australian donor co-ordinators and to share ideas.

#### Core Course in Bereavement Counselling Sydney, 29-31 March

Annette Flanagan completed this course which encourages participants to confront their feelings, beliefs and attitudes about death, dying and bereavement. The course also prepares participants to act in an advocacy and support role for dying and bereaved people.

#### International Society for Organ Donation and Procurement Conference Geneva, 6-9 September

Mary O'Donnell and Dr James Judson attended this conference which gave them an opportunity to network with and learn from colleagues working in the field of organ donation. Dr James Judson presented a paper titled "Deceased organ donation has increased in NZ: Success of a quality improvement programme", an updated version of the paper presented at the ANZICS Wellington conference in April.

James and Mary were interested to hear a variety of presentations. A topic of particular interest was the new Welsh opt-out organ donation register system, which has not increased deceased donation in Wales.

#### New Zealand Emergency Departments Conference Taupo, 19-20 October

Dr Emma Merry presented a paper to this conference via Skype, entitled "What is the potential for organ donation in patients presenting to Emergency Departments? How can they be identified?"

#### Transplant Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting Brisbane, 7-9 May

Dr Emma Merry attended this conference, which provided her with the opportunity to hear from international and local researchers in the fields of donation and transplantation and to connect with colleagues from Australia and New Zealand.

## **ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION**

### Table 1:

Number of deceased organ donors in New Zealand In 2017, 73 deceased organ donors from ICUs in 15 donor hospitals donated organs (and tissues) for transplantation, a 20% increase from 2016 and a 103% increase over five years. Of these, 61 donated following brain death (DBD) and 12 donated following circulatory death (DCD).

This does not include tissue-only donors (eyes, heart valves and skin).

Hospital	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Auckland City CVICU	1	0	0	0	0
Auckland City DCCM	9	6[1]	6[1]	7[2]	21[5]
Christchurch	7	7	8	11[1]	11[1]
Dunedin	1	4	5	11[1]	7[1]
Gisborne	0	1	1	0	0
Grey Base	0	0	0	0	0
Hawke's Bay	2	3	2	3	2
Hutt	1	0	0	0	0
Middlemore	3	3[1]	3[2]	2[1]	4[3]
Nelson	0	0	2	3	1
North Shore	0	1	1	0	3
Palmerston North	0	2	0	0	0
Rotorua	1	1	0	0	1
Southland	1	1	3	1	3
Starship Children's	1[1]	1	0	0	0
Taranaki Base	0	0	1	0	1
Tauranga	0	0	0	3	0
Timaru	0	0	0	0	0
Waikato	5	3[1]	8[1]	6[1]	9[2]
Wairau	0	0	0	0	0
Whanganui	0	1	0	2	1
Wellington	4[1]	10[3]	12[1]	11	6
Whakatane	0	1	0	0	1
Whangarei	0	1	1	1	2
Total number of donors	36[2]	46[6]	53[5]	61[6]	73[12]

Note: [] DCD donors

Table 2:		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cause of Donor	Intracranial haemorrhage	25	15	24	30	38
Death by Year	Cerebral infarct	1	5	2	6	6
	Trauma (road)	1	7	5	6	6
	Trauma (other)	2	10	6	2	4
	Hypoxia-anoxia	6	8	15	15	16
	Other	1	1	1	2	3
	Total	36	46	53	61	73
•••••						
Table 3:		2012	2014	2015	2016	2017
		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Age of Deceased	Mean	47.3	49.7	44.8	48.1	48.8
Donors By Year	Median	514	45.6	47.0	527	516

Mean	47.3	49.7	44.8	48.1	48.8
Median	51.4	45.6	47.0	52.7	51.6
Minimum	1.8	0.2	5.0	17.7	14.3
Maximum	81.5	82.5	79.0	80.0	82.6

# Table 4:

Ethnicity of Deceased Donors by Year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
European	29	37	46	47	58
Māori	3	4	5	5	7
Pacific People	0	2	0	1	4
Other	4	3	2	8	4
Total	36	46	53	61	73

## Table 5:

Organs and Tissues Retrieved from Deceased Donors and Transplanted

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Kidneys	61	67	73	95	121
Hearts	9	17	12	11	23
Lungs (pairs)	19	20	25	20	23
Livers	24	32	41	51	48
Pancreas	1	2	3	4	4
Eye tissue	17	23	26	28	37
Heart valve tissue	14	8	17	20	20
Skin	3	3	3	2	2

### Table 6:

Organs from New Zealand Deceased Donors Transplanted in Australia In 2017 some organs from New Zealand donors were transplanted to Australian recipients and vice versa in accord with the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Clinical Guidelines for Organ Transplantation from Deceased Donors, Version 1.0 – April 2016, which is available via their website: www.tsanz.com.au

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Liver	5 [4]	4[3]	5[3]	7[1]	1
Heart	0	1	1	0	0
Lungs	0	3	2	3	3
Kidney	0	0	0	0	0

[] Split livers

## Table 7:

Organs from Australian Deceased Donors Transplanted in New Zealand

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Liver	5 [3]	7	4[1]	8	2[1]
Heart	0	1	1	0	1
Lungs	0	0	0	0	0
Kidney	0	0	0	0	0

[] Split livers

## Table 8:

Summary data from ODNZ Referral database

Data from ODNZ records	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Telephone discussions about potential organ donation	122	128	136	168	271
Brain dead donors	34	40	48	55	61
DCD donors	2	6	5	6	12
Total donors	36	46	53	61	73

The number of referrals to ODNZ in 2017 increased by 61% from 2016 and continued the trend of increases since 2011. It includes some cases who do not appear in the ICU death audit (because, for example, they might have died without ever having been admitted to ICU, or might not have died in ICU).

# **ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION IN NEW ZEALAND**

Organ transplantation in New Zealand includes:

- Kidney transplantation (deceased-donor and live-donor) transplantation, at Auckland City, Starship Children's, Wellington and Christchurch Hospitals.
- Liver transplantation (deceased-donor and live-donor) at Auckland City and Starship Children's Hospitals.
- Heart transplantation at Auckland City and Starship Children's Hospitals.
- Lung transplantation at Auckland City and Starship Children's Hospitals.
- Pancreas transplantation at Auckland City Hospital.

Data in Tables 10-14 include all transplants performed in New Zealand (including organs from Australian deceased donors). See Tables 6 and 7 for details of Trans-Tasman organ sharing.

## Table 9:

Kidney Transplantation by Year and Donor Type

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Recipients, deceased-donor, single kidney	52	65	73	85	115
Recipients, deceased-donor, double kidney	3	1	0	5	3
Live-donor	58	72	74	82	69
Total	113	138	149	172	187

### Table 10:

		2015	2014	2015	2010	2017	
Heart and Lung	Heart	9	17	12	11	24	
Transplantation by Year	Lung	19	17	23	17	20	

## Table 11:

Liver Transplantation by Year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Adult, deceased donor	25	31	36	46	45
Adult, live adult donor	0	0	0	2 [1]	1
Child, deceased donor	6	7	9	10	7
Child, live adult donor	3	5	3	1	2
Total	34	43	48	59	55

Note: [] Domino transplant

## Table 12

Pancreas Transplantation by Year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Pancreas	0	2	3	4	4

## Table 13

Multiple Organ Transplants by Year This table does not include the number of recipients of two kidneys.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Kidney and pancreas	0	2	2	4	4
Liver and kidney	0	2	2	1	1
Liver and pancreas	0	0	1	0	0
Heart and liver	0	1	0	1	0
Heart and kidney	0	0	0	1	0
Lung and liver	0	0	0	1	0
Total number of multiple transplants	0	5	5	8	5

## **DECEASED TISSUE DONATION**

### Table 14

Deceased Tissue-Only Donation facilitated by ODNZ In 2017 there were 60 deceased tissue-only donors facilitated by ODNZ. Tissue donation can include skin, eye and heart valve tissue. ODNZ also facilitated the first live skin donation in New Zealand.

Referred from:	Ward/Unit	Tissue (only) Donors
Auckland City Hospital	CVICU	4
	DCCM	11
	Wards 65, 68,	2
Christchurch Hospital	ICU	7
	ED	1
Dunedin Hospital	ICU	1
	Medical Ward	1
Gisborne Hospital	ICU	1
Hutt Hospital	ICU	1
Nelson Hospital	ICU	2
North Shore Hospital	ICU	2
	ED, Ward 2	2
Palmerston North Hospital	ICU	1
Rotorua Hospital	ICU	2
Starship Children's Hospital	Neurology Ward	1
Taranaki Hospital	Ward 2a	1
Tauranga Hospital	ICU	1
Waikato Hospital	Ward 8	1
Wellington Hospital	ICU	3
	Ward 5 South	1
Whangarei Hospital	Ward 16	2
Mercy Hospice, Auckland		3
Hibiscus Hospice, Totara Hospice		2
Private Hospitals		7[1]
Funeral Homes		2

[1] Live skin donation

The corneal co-ordinators from the New Zealand National Eye Bank facilitate eye-only donation referred directly to their service. The corneal co-ordinators also facilitate eye donation referred from the Bereavement Team at Middlemore Hospital.

The heart transplant team also co-ordinate heart valve donation from the explanted hearts from heart transplant recipients.

# Table 15:

Total Deceased Tissue Donation in New Zealand

Number of Donors	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Skin	29	13	8	10	5 [1]
Heart Valves	29	34	30	32	34
Eyes	173	174	172	144	188

[1] Living donor

Notes	



www.donor.co.nz