



Health
NSW Organ & Tissue
Donation Service



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

22 November, 2012

One register will make it easy for the people of NSW to donate organs

The Roads and Maritime Services (formerly RTA) organ donor registry closed on Monday, 19 November, 2012 and people in NSW now need to register their intentions at the single national register – the Australian Organ Donation Register (AODR).

The national register provides information on how to make an informed decision and prompts members of the public to have a discussion with family and friends about organ and tissue donation to ensure their intentions are known.

Streamlining to a single national organ donor register is a key strategy of the NSW Government's plan to increase organ donation in NSW – *Increasing Organ Donation in NSW: Government Plan 2012*.

An advertising campaign has been released to remind drivers they will no longer be able to register as an organ donor when they go to renew their licence.

Instead, the community is encouraged to go to the DonateLife website (donatelifegov.au) to register their organ and tissue donation decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register or visit their local Medicare customer service office.

The DonateLife website provides a variety of resources to help discover the facts, decide and register donation decisions on the Australian Organ Donor Register, and most importantly for family members to discuss their donation decisions.

Lisa O'Reilly, Donation Specialist Nurse, St George Hospital, said it is good news that NSW is moving to a common national register in line with the other states of Australia.

"It will simplify the system and remove confusion around asking people what their wishes are.

"The time that people attain their driver's licence is not the best time to discuss wishes about organ donation. It doesn't allow people the opportunity to have a discussion with family and friends or make an informed decision," Ms O'Reilly said.

A snapshot of NSW drivers who have registered to be an organ donor through the RMS registry will be kept by the NSW Organ and Tissue Donation Service for five years. This will give people plenty of time to register their current preference on the Australian Organ Donor Register. Only the most recent wishes of individuals are taken into account at the time organ donation is being considered.

To register on the Australian Organ Donor Register go to: donatelifegov.au/decide, call 1800 777 203 or visit your local Medicare Customer Service Centre.

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media release