

Media Release



Health
South Eastern Sydney
Local Health District

Friday, 22 February 2013

DONATELIFE WEEK 24 FEBRUARY – 3 MARCH 2013 MAKE YOUR WISH COUNT. DISCOVER, DECIDE AND DISCUSS ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION

During **DonateLife Week, Sunday 24 February – Sunday 3 March 2013**, take some time to share your wish with your family and close friends, and ask them about their wishes.

DonateLife Week is Australia's national awareness week to promote organ and tissue donation. It is led by the Organ and Tissue Authority as part of the national DonateLife campaign and supported by community events and activities across Australia.

The theme for this year is “**Make your wish count**” a message that aims to encourage people to have a discussion about organ and tissue donation with their loved ones, so they know their wishes if they are ever faced with making a decision about donation.

Staff at Prince of Wales Hospital are getting behind DonateLife Week 2013 to help raise awareness of the need to discuss organ and tissue donation.

To kick off DonateLife Week, a Donation Specialist Nurse from Prince of Wales Hospital will be at Gloria Jean's Mascot on Thursday, 28 February from 9.00am to 11.00am to answer questions about organ and tissue donation. Gloria Jean's Mascot received a community awareness grant from the Organ and Tissue Authority and will be supporting DonateLife Week by supplying information on organ donation throughout the week.

There will also be an information display at the Barker Street entrance to the Prince of Wales Hospital throughout DonateLife Week. A Donation Specialist Nurse will be available to answer questions about organ and tissue donation on Tuesday, 26 February from 11am to 1pm.

Dr Gordon Flynn, Donation Medical Specialist at Prince of Wales Hospital, said any day during DonateLife Week, is a good day to have the conversation with family and close friends.

“It's a conversation that will help you be prepared, should you ever be asked to confirm a loved one's donation wishes. It will also help your family be prepared should they ever be asked to confirm your wishes. It's a conversation that could one day save lives,” Dr Flynn said.

“Some Australians find it difficult to bring up the subject of organ and tissue donation with family members. Deciding to have the discussion during DonateLife Week can help normalise the subject and make it OK to talk about.” Dr Flynn said.

The overwhelming majority of Australians (84%) are motivated to become a donor and help other Australians in need in the event of their death.

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Organ and tissue donors could transform the lives of 10 or more people. But to make your wish count, it is important to know the facts about organ and tissue donation and to register our decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register.

In Australia, the family of every potential donor is always asked to confirm the donation wishes of their loved one before organ and/or tissue donation can proceed. To make every wish count, every Australian family needs to know each other's wishes, **"Make your wish count" during DonateLife Week 2013.**

For more information: www.donatelife.gov.au