Sunshine Coast residents going pink for the ‘gift of life’

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service Donation Specialist Nurse Shona McDonald is urging locals to register to become an organ donor this Donate Life Week (31 July – 7 August).

Ms McDonald says not knowing how to register was one of the biggest obstacles to improving the local donation consent rate.

“Less than half of all Queenslanders are aware the donor register exists and few people know if their partner or family has registered a donation decision,” Ms McDonald said.

“Registering is important because it leaves your family in no doubt of your wishes to save lives as an organ and tissue donor.”

Less than 30 per cent of Queenslanders are actually registered on the Australian Organ Donor Register, although most say they’d be willing to donate.

Last year, families proceeded with donation in nine out of ten cases when the deceased was a registered donor. This compared to just five out of ten in cases where the potential donor was not registered and family had no prior knowledge of their wishes.

“Another major reason people don’t join the national register is because many supporters of organ and tissue donation mistakenly believe they are already registered as donors,” Ms McDonald said.

“Ticking ‘yes’ on your driver’s licence many years ago does not mean you are registered. You need to join the Australian Organ Donor Register to record your decision.”

It’s never been easier to register your donor wishes, with new ways to register online now available at donatelife.gov.au

To celebrate Donate Life Week (31 July – 7 August) staff at Good Bean Big Top Shopping Centre will don pink, and caffeine lovers will receive their coffee in a matching pink Donate Life cup.

Sunshine Coast mother and organ donor recipient Mona Holden will also be in attendance, and will be available to speak to the media about the importance of organ donation.

Ms Holden received a donor kidney last year, after years of dialysis treatment.

What: Photo and interview opportunity with Donation Specialist Nurse Shona McDonald and kidney recipient Mona Holden.
Where: Good Bean Espresso Bar, Shop 4/1 Mooloolaba Esplanade, Mooloolaba.

When: Monday 1 August 2016 at 10:30am.

ENDS

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