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Moving tribute to lives lost and lives saved

A moving tribute to the lives lost and the many lives they transformed will be held this weekend on the Sunshine Coast. (Saturday, 10 June at 10am).

People from throughout the Sunshine Coast will converge at Immanuel Church, Maroochydore to honour organ and tissue donors who make transplantation possible.

“Last year alone 1448 Australians lives were saved through the generosity of 503 organ donors whose families chose to honour the wishes of their loved ones by donating their organs and tissues on the worst day of their life,” Danielle Upson, Donation Specialist Nurse Coordinator for the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, said.

“They reached out to families they did not know who were in desperate need. By doing so, they transformed the health and lives of many hundreds of other Australians and Queenslanders.

“In addition to providing life-saving organ transplants, their decisions also restored sight (eye tissue), repaired hearts (valves), helped people walk (bone), and rebuilt the lives of people suffering from life-threatening burns (skin).”

The 8th Annual Service of Remembrance for the Sunshine Coast as will be held at Immanuel Church, Buderim from 10am this Saturday, and serves as a reminder to the community of the altruistic spirit of Queenslanders.

Ms Upson said the service enabled transplant recipients and the wider community to publicly acknowledge the generosity of organ and tissue donors.

“It is an opportunity to reinforce the message to all donor families that their loved ones have not been forgotten and their death has meaning on a community as well as a very personal level,” she said.

“It is an opportunity to thank them for their precious gifts.”

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**Editors please note:** Donor families and transplant recipients willing to tell their personal journeys may be arranged on request.

_Do you know your loved ones wishes for organ/tissue donation? One person can save up to 10 lives. Sign on at www.donorregister.gov.au or visit www.donatelife.gov.au for more information._