

MEDIA RELEASE

30 July, 2015

Coffee conversations help to change lives

THIS DonateLife Week Toowoomba Hospital's Liz Hill hopes to see coffee-lovers having a conversation that could change the future of the hundreds of people waiting for an organ transplant.

As a clinical nurse consultant, Ms Hill's role involves raising awareness and sharing information about organ and tissue donation.

To mark DonateLife Week, which runs from 2 to 9 August, she has delivered 5000, specially designed takeaway coffee cups to seven cafes across Toowoomba.

Each takeaway coffee features information about organ and tissue donation, and a message that Ms Hill hopes will prompt people to have a chat with their loved ones about their wishes.

"Having a coffee with friends and family is a past time that many people enjoy," she said.

"However, organ and tissue donation is not something that is ordinarily freely discussed around the dinner table.

"I hope these DonateLife cups will encourage people to start a conversation with their loved ones about their wishes, if they were to die."

Ms Hill said people over the age of 18 years can register to become donors online however, if the time comes, it is a decision made by their next of kin.

"Consent has to come from family members for a donation to take place," she said.

"That is why it is important to have correct information about organ and tissue donation, and to make your loved ones aware of your wishes."

The DonateLife coffee cups will be served at the following cafes during August:

- Jamaica Blue (Grand Central and Ridge shopping centres)
- The Angel Café (Southtown Shopping Centre, South St)
- Pink Peppercorn Deli Cafe (ground floor, Medici Medical Centre, Scott St)
- Impressions on Scott (Scott St)
- Toowoomba Hospital cafeteria
- Park House Café (Margaret St)

DonateLife week and organ and tissue donation are supported by the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation.

“For the last few years, the Foundation has actively supported organ and tissue donation,” Toowoomba Hospital Foundation Chief Executive Officer Peter Rookas said.

“It’s an issue that has touched our community many times.

“While organ and tissue donation doesn’t take away the pain for families facing the tragedy of losing a loved-one, it does provide some comfort during an awful time, and it does change the lives of organ recipients.”

Information about organ and tissue donation will also be on display from 2 to 9 August in the foyer of the Toowoomba Hospital, or visit www.donatelife.gov.au

Ends

Caption: Toowoomba Hospital clinical nurse consultant for organ and tissue donation Liz Hill and Toowoomba Hospital Foundation CEO Peter Rookas encourage everyone to have the ‘coffee conversation’ during DonateLife Week.

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