



Media statement

14 November 2019

When THANK YOU is not enough!

Thousands of Queensland organ and tissue recipients stand united on one sentiment – that saying, “Thank You” to their donor family “doesn’t feel quite enough”.

On the eve of DonateLife *Thank You Day*, a National day to recognise the difference the gift of life makes to transplant recipients and their families, some of our Queensland recipients described how they felt about their donor families.

Local endurance athlete and liver recipient, Kate Clark, agreed it was difficult to put the gratitude she felt towards her donor and their family into words.

“For the past 7966 days I have tried to do things each and every day to honour the selfless gift of life that I received, whether it be by achieving athletic feats or celebrating milestones,” Kate said.

“This anonymous family are never far from my thoughts and without them none of the last 21+ years would have been possible. So, when words are all I have for now, thank you for being the reason I have a story.”

Organ and tissue recipients around Queensland will be sharing more of these heartfelt messages on social media platforms this Sunday, 17 November, to recognise DonateLife’s national *Thank You Day*.

The national initiative aims to recognise lives which are saved by generous organ and tissue donors.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service donation specialist nurse coordinator, Shona McDonald, said Queensland organ donors had given well over 5000 precious gifts of life since transplantation records began in 1989, and tissue donors had transformed tens of thousands of lives.

“A great way to honour our donors is to follow their example and sign up on the Australian Organ Donor Register,” she said.

To date this year, the Sunshine Coast has had 3603 extra registrations, compared to 3035 in the same period last year. So, we also want to say, “Thank You” to all those extra people who took the time to register their decision and potentially save a life.”

There are two ways Queenslanders can honour organ donors this *Thank You Day*.

Sunshine Coast

Hospital and Health Service

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- Share your story on social media if you've received a life-giving or life-transforming organ or tissue donation and hashtag #ThankYouDay2019 #DonateLife
- If you are among the 72% of Queenslanders yet to register your decision, it's time to honour our donors by joining the organ donor register at www.donatelife.gov.au – it only takes 60 seconds.

Fast Facts:

- In 2018 – 94 Queensland organ donors saved the lives of 287 Australians.
- Around 920 Queenslanders who died last year donated life-transforming tissue for transplantation.
- The number of Queensland donors has more than doubled since national reform in 2009.

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