



An independent support  
and advocacy network

**about**

**Donor Families  
Australia**



Donor Families  
AUSTRALIA



*A life that touches others goes on forever*

# WHO IS DONOR FAMILIES AUSTRALIA?

Losing someone we love is one of the hardest things we may ever have to live with.

Formed in 2013, Donor Families Australia is a national member-based independent support and advocacy group comprising families who have donated their loved ones' organs and tissue. It is the only organisation of its kind in Australia specifically dedicated to Donor Families.



Donor Families Australia assists all families with what they are going through, providing a safe and trusted network to:

- Share stories and experiences
- Express themselves freely, and
- Ensure they are heard and understood.

## Care

for and support families who have donated their loved ones' organs and tissue

## Educate

the wider community about the benefits of organ and tissue donation whilst emphasising the very important role of Donor Families in this process

## Advocate

and give donor families a voice in all aspects of organ and tissue donation

## Share

the experiences with similar people to support those making life changing decisions

We want to hear from all donor families and be able to act as advocates for those who need help, if they want it.

## A VOICE THAT CAN BE HEARD

Our vision is for Donor Families' voices to be heard; that they are consulted regarding organ and tissue donation policy.

- We give those in a position to influence policy somewhere they can find out what this most important group think.
- We connect the community to a group that knows the experience of donation so they might come to a true understanding of what it is all about.

## THE VALUE OF DONATION

The number of Donor Families throughout Australia is significant. There have been more than 5,000 organ donors and an unknown number of tissue donors since 1989\*.

By working with the donor community, government and other not-for-profit organisations, we believe we can help improve the Donor Family experience by:

- Helping educate the public on the value of being a Donor Family and the generosity and kindness it takes
- Advocating to ensure Donor Families are treated with the utmost respect throughout the process
- Celebrating and honouring our loved ones' gifts.

We believe donor rates can be improved by showing the community the real value of our loved ones donation.

## A SUPPORT NETWORK

Members can contribute to the conversation about donation and their experiences by sharing their stories and honouring their loved ones on the website and through social media -either publicly or through the private members-only Facebook group. There are also formal and informal events throughout the year for members to gather and support each other.

Donor Families Australia is often approached by reputable institutions regarding research opportunities that may contribute to improvements and further understanding. Members are informed of these so they can respond to an invitation to participate.

\*Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Registry 1989 to 2013 Summaries by Year and State.

## INDEPENDENT AND PART OF THE COMMUNITY

Donor Families Australia is an independent organisation, completely directed by its membership to help improve the experience of Donor Families.

We endeavour to work with all similar organisations such as those involved with organ and tissue donation in collaborative manner for the betterment of all.

## MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

Membership is made up of Donor Families who control the network's activities.

There are also Associates (friends of) who are not themselves members of donor families but have an interest in, and are supportive of, the organisation and its members.

The Board of Directors is made up predominately of Donor Families with the Chair specifically being a Donor Family member.

**Donor Families Australia is here so Donor Families have a place to go. Help us to build a caring community and shape the future of this caring national network.**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



From top left: Bruce McDowell; Holly Northam (PhD); Leanne Campbell; Graham Harrison Philippa Waldron.  
Second row: ...; Liz Mazur; ....; Helen Day

## CONTACT US



[donorfamiliesaustralia.com](http://donorfamiliesaustralia.com)



[facebook.com/DonorFamiliesAustralia](https://facebook.com/DonorFamiliesAustralia)



[donorfamiliesaustralia.com/contact-us](mailto:donorfamiliesaustralia.com/contact-us)

**Share your experience**  
with similar people to support those  
making life changing decisions.  
**Help us to build a caring community**

To find out more about  
**Donor Families Australia**  
and how to become a member  
please visit our website

**Individually we do great things and affect those around us.  
Collectively we do great things and affect a nation!**

*A life that touches others goes on forever*