

# Organ and Tissue Donation after Assisted Dying

Information for the person and whānau

This information may be helpful if you are considering organ and tissue donation after Assisted Dying (AD) – or if you are part of the person's whānau – a family member, carer or support person.

## Starting the organ and tissue donation after AD process

Organ Donation New Zealand (ODNZ) considers comfort and dignity the most important aspects of your care. Any offer of organ and tissue donation is a secondary consideration to AD.

We recommend you talk openly with your loved ones about death and dying in relation to your illness, along with your choice about AD. We will support you and your whānau to reach a decision regarding your end-of-life journey that is right for you. We will only start discussions regarding the process of becoming a donor after AD once you have been found eligible for the AD pathway. You can discuss your wishes and the possibility of organ and tissue donation with your Attending Medical Practitioner (AMP) at any time.

## Assessing suitability to be a donor

You, your whānau, GP or AMP are all welcome to contact us at ODNZ about organ and tissue donation. If you are eligible for the AD pathway, we will answer your initial questions and ask for some medical information for a preliminary assessment.

Then, at a time convenient to you, two nurse specialist Donor Coordinator from ODNZ will meet with you and your whānau face-to-face, or virtually, depending on your mobility and location. This initial meeting will be to share information about organ and tissue donation and what that might look like in your circumstances. If you are supportive, ODNZ will seek your permission to obtain relevant medical information to determine your suitability to donate.

There are a range of possible donation outcomes. The pathway available to you depends on various factors relevant to your current disease, past medical history, and age. ODNZ will provide you and your whānau with all the information you need to help you make an informed decision that is right for you.

Donation and transplantation are never guaranteed. We will ensure clear communication and support is provided to you and your whānau.

## Your decision about donation after AD

If you choose to pursue donation after AD, we will meet with you to obtain formal consent and a detailed health history. You are encouraged to invite your whānau to this meeting.

If at any time you change your mind about donation, you may withdraw your consent without any impact on your ability to undertake AD. ODNZ will support you and your whānau throughout the entire process. We will also continue to support your loved ones after your death and donation.

[www.donor.co.nz](http://www.donor.co.nz)

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