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For immediate release

Health Consumers' Council joins The Great Registration Race for DonateLife Week

Health Consumers' Council has received a 2021 Community Awareness Grant from the Organ and Tissue Authority to undertake a project aimed at empowering Western Australians to increase their knowledge of the benefits of organ and tissue donation and transplantation, to encourage family discussion and know each other's donation decisions, and to register online on the Australian Organ Donor Register.

"We want West Australians to be able to make informed decisions about organ and tissue donation, and that means ensuring they can access the right resources to help them make the decision, register, and have that conversation with their family," said Health Consumers' Council Deputy Director Clare Mullen.

"Our focus is on increasing awareness and encouraging conversation among Aboriginal people and people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds. We look forward to hosting community conversation over the coming months to learn more about what the community already knows about organ and tissue donation, what they'd like to know, and what resources would be most beneficial for them."

Health Consumers' Council is also proudly taking part in The Great Registration Race for DonateLife Week. Throughout July and August, and with a big push during DonateLife Week (Sunday 25 July – Sunday 1 August), we're encouraging everyone to check they're registered.

The more people who sign up as organ and tissue donors – the more lives that can be transformed.

In 2020, 1,270 Australian lives were saved through an organ transplant due to the generosity of 463 deceased organ donors and their families

"However, we know Covid-19 has had a direct impact on organ and tissue donation. In 2020, there was a 16% decrease in Australians registering as donors. This means it's never been more important to register as an organ and tissue donor and to encourage others to join you."

"Even if you think you might already be registered, we encourage you to check during DonateLife Week."

Importantly, if you are not an Australian citizen and/or do not have a Medicare number you can still register as an organ and tissue donor by calling 1800 777 203 or visiting www.donatelife.gov.au/register

Health Consumers' Council (WA) Inc
Unit 6, 40 Lord St, East Perth WA 6004
GPO Box C134, Perth WA 6839
T: 08 9221 3422
E: info@hconc.org.au W: www.hconc.org.au



What is DonateLife Week?

Held every year, DonateLife Week is a public awareness campaign that raises the profile of organ and tissue donation in Australia. In 2021, DonateLife is turning 10! This year we are joining The Great Registration Race for DonateLife Week to race to encourage up to 100,000 more Australians to register as organ and tissue donors

How do people register as organ and tissue donors?

It is quick and easy to become a registered organ and tissue donor at donatelife.gov.au/register, all you need is your Medicare card and one minute.

ENDS

Rachel Seeley

Marketing and Communications Coordinator

T: 08 9221 3422

E: rachel.seeley@hconc.org.au

Clare Mullen

Deputy Director

T: 08 9221 3422

D: 08 6109 6713

E: clare.mullen@hconc.org.au

About Health Consumers' Council

Health Consumers' Council (WA) Inc. is an independent, not for profit organisation passionate about ensuring the consumer is at the heart of our state's health care system. HCC is an advocate for patients in WA.

We offer a unique perspective on health policy and service delivery matters. HCC receives funding from State agencies and comments publicly on issues affecting health.