

Department of Anatomy  
School of Medical Sciences  
Faculty of Medicine  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES



## DONOR INFORMATION STATEMENT

You are invited to donate your body to the University of New South Wales for the purpose of anatomical study and medical research. Your donation will make possible the training of health care professionals and benefit the entire community. Please take time to read the following points about the donor program before completing the consent form.

The University accepts bodies in accordance with the provisions of the Anatomy Act 1977 and the Human Tissue Act 1983 for medical teaching and research.

### **Making your wishes known in your will:**

To ensure that your wishes in this matter are observed, it is desirable that you discuss your intentions with your next-of-kin and with the executor(s) of your will. A provision in your will to the following effect:

“I have expressed the wish for and consented to the anatomical examination of my body at the Department of Anatomy of The University of New South Wales and the removal of tissue from my body to be used for medical or scientific purposes and I confirm that my wish and that consent has not been withdrawn or revoked by me.”

This will assist in drawing the attention of your executor(s) to this matter.

### **Letting your health care professional or next-of-kin know of your wishes:**

Any doctor or nurse in attendance or next-of-kin should also know of your intentions so that, in the event of your death, he or she can get in touch with the University as soon as possible. Telephone calls should be made to the Department of Anatomy 02 9385 2480 during office hours or 02 9385 1891 outside of business hours.

### **Memorial ceremony at the time of your death:**

If your next-of-kin so desire, they may arrange, at the expense of your estate, for a private memorial ceremony before your body passes to the Department of Anatomy. Alternatively, a ceremony at the time of cremation would also be possible.

### **Responsibilities of the University when we are advised of your death:**

Immediately on receipt of advice of your death and subject to the circumstances which may prevent the University accepting your donation (see below), the University will make all necessary arrangements and meet all expenses in connection with the removal and transport of your body. When anatomical examination has been completed the University will arrange for remaining body parts to be cremated and will meet the expenses of these arrangements. Your ashes will then be available for your loved ones. The University does not undertake to erect a headstone or memorial plaque.

**Circumstances which may prevent the University accepting your donation:**

The University welcomes your valued offer of donation but some circumstances may prevent its acceptance. On such occasions the University would advise your executor, administrator, or next-of-kin of its inability to accept the offer and no financial obligation would then be accepted by the University. Circumstances which will prevent the acceptance of your donation include:

- Obesity
- Tuberculosis (TB), HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD), other certain communicable diseases
- If death occurred more than three days before notification to the University
- If your body has been significantly altered by certain medical conditions
- Limited storage within the University facility
- When there is too great a distance for body transportation

Please note that because of these factors, a signed consent form intending donation, does not guarantee acceptance of your body.

**Possible use of your donation by another Medical School or Teaching Hospital:**

Medical Schools or Teaching Hospital in less populous areas do not receive as many offers as this Medical School and as a result their work is sometimes hampered. If we are unable to use your body in this University, and you have no objection to your body or your tissues being used in another Medical School or Teaching Hospital in Australia, or other international institutes where there is a shortage of donors, we will transfer your body or tissues to one of these Medical Schools or Teaching Hospitals. The Anatomy Consent Form makes provision for you to express your wishes on this matter. The expenses involved in making the transfer would be paid by the other Medical School or Teaching Hospital. When anatomical examination has been completed, the other Medical School or Teaching Hospital would return your cremated remains to the University of New South Wales.

**Conditions placed on the donation of your body:**

If you have a request which is very important to you, such that you wish it to be a condition of your donation, you should write this conditions followed by the words 'My consent is conditional upon this request' on a *Donor's Conditions and Request* sheet. In this case, the University will only use your body in its donor program if it can ensure that this request will be met. If your requests are too difficult to effect, the University may not be able to accept your body.

**Complaints can be made to an independent ethical committee:**

Should you have any complaints concerning the arrangements for donation consent, or your next-of-kin have any complaints about the procedures involved in donation, these should first be resolved with the Anatomy Department and failing that directed to the Ethics Secretariat, University of New South Wales, Sydney 2052, phone 02 9385 4234, fax 9385 6648 and email [ethics.sec@unsw.edu.au](mailto:ethics.sec@unsw.edu.au).

**Lodging your consent form and your right to revoke your consent:**

The completed form must be lodged with and accepted by the Department of Anatomy prior to your death. Please note that we have also included a provision for you to revoke your wish to donate your body. You are free to withdraw your consent at any time prior to your death without prejudice.

**Any further questions:**

If you have any further questions please feel free to ask us. If you have any additional questions later, either the Administrative Assistant or the Head of the Department of Anatomy will be happy to assist you ( please phone 02 9385 2480 ).