



Telephone: 9385 2480 (or)
9385 2531
After hours: 9385 1891
Fax: 9385 2866

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 School of Medical Sciences 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from my body to be used for medical or scientific purposes and I confirm that my wish and that consent has not been withdrawn or revoked by me.”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 School of Medical Sciences 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 School of Medical Sciences. Alternatively, a ceremony at the time of cremation would also be possible.

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

Immediately upon notification of your death and subject to the circumstances which may prevent the University accepting your donation (see page over), the University will make all necessary arrangements and meet all expenses in connection with the removal and transport of your body. We will undertake tests on blood from your body to see if you have HIV, Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C virus. This is to protect staff working with your body.

The School of Medical Sciences will not disclose the nature of the results with any third party. However you should be aware that if testing reveals a reportable infectious disease (such as HIV), then we are legally obliged to report this to public health authorities, who may then contact your close contacts if they consider it is in the interest of public health to do so.

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. Circumstances which will prevent the acceptance of your donation include:

- Obesity or emaciation (extreme slenderness)
- Tuberculosis (TB), HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease (CJD), antibiotic resistant bacterial infections such as MRSA, dementia of unknown cause, or a suspected communicable disease
- Have resided in the UK between 1980 and 1996 for a total time of six months or more or have received blood transfusions in the UK since 1 January 1980
- If death occurred more than three days before notification to the University
- If your body has been significantly altered by certain medical conditions including amputation
- When there is too great a distance for body transportation
- Limited storage within the University facility
- Planned University shutdowns (e.g. Christmas/New Year break)

Please note that because of these factors, a signed consent form intending donation, does **NOT** guarantee acceptance of your body. Therefore, the University of New South Wales cannot be held liable for any costs incurred through the rejection of a donation for any reason.

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. When anatomical examination has been completed, the other Medical School or Teaching Hospital would return your cremated remains to the University of NSW.

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 Head of School, School of Medical Sciences (Professor Nicholas Hawkins) on telephone 9385 2531 and failing that, be 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.

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

The completed form must be lodged with and accepted by the School of Medical Sciences 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 on telephone 9385 2480 or the Head of School (telephone above) would be happy to assist you.