



Donor Families  
AUSTRALIA



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## MEDIA RELEASE

**5 November 2016**

**For immediate release**

Sunday 20 November 2016 marks DonateLife “Thank You Day” across Australia, acknowledging all organ and tissue donors and their families. In WA, Donor Families Australia is holding a free barbecue at Sir James Mitchell Park in South Perth for donors, recipients, their families and the rest of the community. The event is held in conjunction with donor agency partners PlusLife and Lion’s Eyebank WA.

Bruce McDowell, Donor Families Australia Chair said: “It’s a great opportunity for those directly affected by organ and tissue donation – living donors, donor families, recipients and their families, and the community as a whole – to get together and celebrate the gift that has been given.

“As a society, it’s really important to us, that when we are given a gift, we acknowledge it and say thank you. This is what we teach our children. Someone who has received the gift of donation has had their life saved in some way; they may be able to get back to work, travel, be with their family and friends, or perhaps have their own or add to their family. We want to celebrate these miracles.

“Of course, the unfortunate part of the gift of donation, often means having lost a loved one and whilst nothing can make up for that, connection with recipients and their families, hearing about how their lives have improved, and knowing the gift is acknowledged and appreciated, does go some way toward helping with the grief process,” he said.

The events starts at 11.30 am and continues until about 3 pm, during which there will be a barbecue lunch provided and a balloon release to celebrate the many donation gifts. The barbecue is generously supplied by Coles and event insurance comes courtesy of Nexus.

Open to all members of the community, to attend just RSVP to Donor Families Australia by email at: [admin@donorfamiliesaustralia.com](mailto:admin@donorfamiliesaustralia.com) by 10 November. Participants just need to bring their own drinks and chairs.

Thank You Day is a national initiative, funded by DonateLife and in 2016, into its second year. For more details of the WA event, and for events around Australia, please visit the Donor Families Australia Website or connect with us on Facebook.

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### MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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**Bruce McDowell** // Chair // Mobile: 0427 645 262

## **ABOUT DONOR FAMILIES AUSTRALIA**

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.

### **For more information:**

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

<https://www.facebook.com/DonorFamiliesAustralia>

This project is sponsored by



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