



The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP

**Minister for Senior Australians and Aged Care
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MEDIA RELEASE

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Garden Commemorates the Gift of Life

Australians now have a Gift of Life Garden in the national capital to acknowledge those affected by organ and tissue donation and transplantation, supported by an \$80,000 contribution from our Government.

One of three new gardens officially opened at the National Arboretum in Canberra today, the garden provides secluded and beautiful places for quiet reflection and appreciation, while also celebrating the generosity and healing that are part of each organ and tissue donation story.

The Gift of Life Garden has a heartbeat theme, including Australian and exotic species that change with the seasons, reflecting the cycle of life.

Organ and tissue donation can be lifesaving and life-changing, benefiting transplant recipients, their loved ones and the wider community.

Our Government continues to improve opportunities for Australians needing a transplant, through a concerted national program to further increase organ and tissue donation.

More than 10,000 Australians have received a life-saving transplant through the generosity of 3,464 deceased organ donors since the national program was introduced in 2009.

There are currently 1,400 Australians on transplant waiting lists, and a further 11,000 people on dialysis.

There has been significant progress over the past nine years, but more can be done.

The Gift of Life Garden will not only provide a tranquil setting for reflection by those touched by organ and tissue donation, it will also offer the many visitors to the National Arboretum an opportunity to contemplate the importance of donation and consider registering as a donor.

Talking to your family and friends and joining the Australian Organ Donor Register can make a lifetime of difference to many Australians in need of donation.

Registering is quick and easy online - all you need is one minute and your Medicare card number but it's a decision that could one day save lives.

You can register to be an organ and tissue donor at donatelife.gov.au

Created by Somewhere Landscape Architects, the Gift of Life Garden cost around \$240,000 to develop including funding support from the Australian Capital Territory government and private donors.

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