

MEDIA RELEASE

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RUTH FORREST CALLS FOR URGENT SIGN-UP

This week is Australian Organ Donor Awareness Week and Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest is calling on residents of the north west to register as a consenting organ and tissue donor.

"Registering as an organ and tissue donor couldn't be easier and it's a simple act with the greatest potential to save or transform the lives of so many others" Ms Forrest said.

Ms Forrest said Australia urgently needed to increase organ and tissue donation rates in order to save or transform the lives of the 2000 people on transport waiting lists.

"We've seen enough evidence recently to know Australians respond to situations of overwhelming need with a spontaneous generosity that touches its recipients in a life affirming way.

"But while the need for organ and tissue donation is obvious, it's the one form of generosity that can't be spontaneous. It depends on potential donors registering their consent and discussing it with their families, partner or friends," Ms Forrest said.

"It's very important that you talk about your wishes with your family, partner or friends now. If you don't they could be faced with being asked to make a decision about donation for you without knowing your wishes," she said.

The establishment in July 2005 of the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR) as a national consent register means it's vital that even those who may have previously indicated their wish to become a donor read and complete the new registration form.

Organ and tissue donation registration forms are available through Medicare offices or online. For more information about the Australian Organ Donor Register call 1800 777 203, or visit www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

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For further information, please phone 0419879524.

