



GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY BODY DONATION PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

Griffith University School of Anatomy accepts human body donations in accordance with the Queensland Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979, the Transplantation & Anatomy Regulation 2004, and Amendment 2006, which allow members of the public to unconditionally donate their body for the purposes of anatomical learning and research. Details of the legislation can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/CURRENT/T/TransplAAnatA79.pdf>

What is the purpose of the Body Donation Program?

The Body Donation Program provides practical opportunities to study the human body in an educational environment. Donors make a vital contribution to the training of the next generation of scientists, and medical and allied health professionals. The program has been reviewed and approved by the Griffith University Human Ethics Committee, as is any research project conducted in the School of Anatomy.

Are all donations the same?

No. Potential donors may elect to donate their body for either a fixed term or an indefinite period. A fixed term donation can be a minimum of 3 weeks to a maximum of 3 years, after which time, if stipulated by the donor in the Consent Form, the ashes may be collected by the senior available next of kin. Indefinite term donations have no end date, but average five years in duration. After that time, the body is cremated. Ashes of donors opting for indefinite donations are not routinely available for collection.

How do I donate my body?

Potential donors must request a Body Donation Program Consent Form which will be mailed to them along with other relevant documents. Please apply via our on-line form at <http://www.griffith.edu.au/health/school-anatomy/body-donation/application>, or in writing to the Griffith University School of Anatomy, Griffith University, Gold Coast Qld 4222. Potential donors must complete, sign and submit the Consent Form to the School of Anatomy. The Consent Form must be signed in the presence of two witnesses over the age of 18 years who are independent of the University. A statement in your Will similar to paragraph 1 of the Consent Form will notify your Executor of your donation wishes. We recommend that donors keep a copy and provide Executors and senior next of kin with a copy of their completed, signed Consent Form. For this reason we provide a carbonised, four-layered Consent Form. Please press firmly when filling out the Consent Form, and **initial** the boxes where indicated. Do not separate pages until completed. Please forward only the original (white top copy) to the School of Anatomy Body Donation Program. (See directions at the foot of each page of the Consent Form.)

If I have signed and submitted the Consent Form, will the University always accept my body?

Not always. Once the School of Anatomy receives your completed and signed Consent Form, you will be listed on the School's confidential Register of Living Donors as a donor. Acceptance of a body into the program can only be determined after death. Unfortunately, some factors can prevent acceptance of a body by the University.

What are the circumstances that may prevent the University from accepting my donation?

Anyone over the age of 18 can be a donor; however, the following are examples of circumstances that may prevent acceptance at the time of death:

- Donor has died outside the Griffith Body Donation Program catchment area (see map)
- Donor cannot be transferred to the Griffith School of Anatomy within two days of death
- Donor had Creutzfeldt Jacob Disease, acute dementia or other transmissible disease
- Donor has undergone or will need to undergo an autopsy
- Donor has unhealed surgical wounds
- Major organ removal at time of death (You may be an organ donor, however, at time of death the acceptability of your body will be evaluated based on degree of organ removal.)

What happens if my body is not accepted?

If the University is unable to accept your body, your Executor or senior (available) next of kin will be required to make alternative funeral arrangements. Griffith University will not accept any financial obligation for funeral arrangements or associated costs. It is thus recommended that consideration is given to potential alternative funeral arrangements before your death.

At the time of my death what does my family do?

At the time of your death, either your attending medical staff or your senior (available) next of kin must promptly notify the School of Anatomy on **(07) 55527700** (business hours) or Metropolitan Funerals on **(07) 55311722** (after hours). Qualified medical staff will immediately consult with staff in the School of Anatomy to determine the suitability of your remains for teaching and research purposes.

If my body is accepted what happens after my death?

Your senior (available) next of kin will be asked to give consent to the donation. Please note, if your next of kin object to the donation, the School of Anatomy will cancel the bequest. For this reason we recommend making your wishes clearly known to your next of kin. If the body is deemed acceptable for donation, with consent of your senior (available) next of kin, the School of Anatomy will make all necessary arrangements and meet all expenses in connection with the removal and transport of your body to the University by our delegated funeral director. When a donor body arrives at the School of Anatomy, an embalming or freezing process will be carried out which will preserve the tissues in a sterile condition. The body will be used for the teaching of anatomy to students and health professionals and for anatomical research activities. When educational and research activities have been completed the University will arrange for, and meet, the expenses of cremation through a reputable funeral director. Your ashes will then be available for collection by your next of kin, or laid to rest in the University's Memorial Garden. Should you wish to include a bequest in your Will to cover the costs of donation-related procedures, such generosity would be gratefully received.

Can my family have a memorial service?

Yes. However, it is important that the University receives your body no later than two days after your death. Your loved ones may wish, at their own expense or the expense of your estate, to arrange for a private ceremony before your body is transferred to the School of Anatomy, or alternatively arrange for a private memorial service without your body. A School of Anatomy Thanksgiving Service is held annually to express our gratitude for body bequests. Relatives and friends of donors, as well as students and staff of the School of Anatomy are invited to attend.

Will the people using my body for educational purposes know who I am?

No. The University maintains donor confidentiality throughout the body donation process. Personal details are used only for the assessment of donor suitability, record keeping or research. Only a specimen-unique number identifies donated bodies.

Can I withdraw from the Program?

Yes. When the School of Anatomy confirms your acceptance into the Body Donation Program, we will include a form for you to complete in the event that you wish to withdraw your consent. You may also withdraw your participation in the program at any time by notifying the School in writing.

What happens if I move?

Please notify the School of Anatomy in writing of any change to your contact details and/or those of your senior next of kin.

NOTES FOR SENIOR NEXT OF KIN AT TIME OF DEATH

As soon as possible please contact the School of Anatomy, on **(07) 55527700** (business hours) or Metropolitan Funerals on **(07) 55311722** (after hours).

Please ensure a Medical Cause of Death Certificate is completed by the doctor at the time of death. The Medical Cause of Death Certificate should accompany the donor when transported to the University.

If the body is accepted the School of Anatomy will make arrangements for transportation to the University, and will register the death with the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. The Registrar will forward to you a Death Registration Application to be completed, and returned to register the death. We will also send you an Application for a Permission to Cremate form to be completed and returned to us.