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/TranspAAnatA79.pdf

What is the purpose of the Body Bequest Program?
The Body Bequest 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 which 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 (via our on-line form at http://www.griffith.edu.au/health/school-anatomy/bequest-program/application, or in writing to the Griffith University School of Anatomy) a Body Bequest Program Consent Form which will be mailed to them along with other relevant documents. 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 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, the layers of which can be separated and distributed easily. Please ensure the original (white top copy) is forwarded to the School of Anatomy Body Bequest Program. We suggest the blue copy is kept with your personal effects, the yellow copy given to the Executor of your Will, and the pink copy given to your senior next of kin. (See directions at the foot of each page of the Consent Form.) Please press firmly as you fill out the Consent Form, and initial rather than tick the boxes where indicated. Do not separate pages until completed.

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 and the School will send you a letter confirming your acceptance into the Body Bequest Program. As the time of death may occur many years after the Consent Forms are submitted, however, 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 Bequest 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 advised so that they may co-ordinate your alternative funeral arrangements. On such occasions, 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 that 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 then be placed in cold storage until required, at which time it 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. If your loved ones wish, they may, at their own expense or the expense of your estate, 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 special School of Anatomy Thanksgiving Service will be held periodically 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 these occasions.

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 acquired are used only for the assessment of donor suitability, record keeping or research. Only a specimen-unique number identifies donated bodies. A person whose private information is held by the University can at any time review their information and ask the University to change it.

Can I withdraw from the Program?
Yes. Included in the letter sent to you by the School of Anatomy confirming your acceptance into the Body Bequest Program is a form for you to complete should you wish to withdraw your consent at any time. You may also withdraw your participation in the program at any time by notifying the School in writing. We will send confirmation of your withdrawal.

What happens if I move?
Once you become a registered donor, please remember to notify the School of Anatomy 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

Before making any other arrangements, please contact the School of Anatomy, Anatomy Support Officer on (07) 55527700 (business hours) or Metropolitan Funerals staff on (07) 55311722 (after hours).

Please ensure that you have the Medical Cause of Death Certificate completed by the doctor at the time of death, with the body.

In the event the University accepts the body, Griffith University School of Anatomy will make all necessary arrangements for removal and transportation to the University, and will forward the original Medical Cause of Death Certificate to the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. The Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages will send you a Death Registration Application and you will be required to register the death. We will also send you an Application for a Permission to Cremate form that must be returned to us.

The transporter appointed by the University to collect the body should be given the Medical Cause of Death Certificate so that they may deliver it to the University with the body.