

CHLOE'S STORY

Chloe was just a week away from sitting her Year 12 exams when she was delivered the devastating diagnosis of an osteosarcoma – a malignant tumour in her left femur.

Chloe had noticed a lump on her left thigh and was experiencing tiredness. After some months, the lump became painful. An X-ray showed some abnormalities, but a further CT scan revealed a low grade bone tumor.

Just four days after completing her exams, Chloe underwent surgery to remove the tumour, with doctors transplanting allograft bone from PlusLife and placing a metal plate and screws into her thigh.

"The work of PlusLife is so important. I didn't even know the bone and tissue bank existed until I was put in the position where I needed a bone graft," Chloe said.

"PlusLife makes a real difference to the lives of many people just like me."

Chloe said her family was extremely thankful for the bone graft donation which saved her leg and they call on others to consider becoming tissue donors.

HOW IS PLUSLIFE FUNDED?

There is no cost associated with donating bone and tissue, nor is any payment made to the donor or donor family.

Trading in human tissue is illegal in Australia, however, a 'fee for service' approved by the Commonwealth Government is recoverable via health funds each time a graft is implanted.

These graft fees support PlusLife's operational expenses, but as a not-for-profit entity, we also rely on the generosity of the Western Australian community to support our organisation.

To make a tax deductible donation to PlusLife, please call (08) 6144 3500 or visit www.pluslife.org.au

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED TO SUPPORT PLUSLIFE:

- Talk to your family about organ and tissue donation
- Register your donation wishes at www.donorregister.gov.au
- Like and share our posts on social media
- Sign up for our newsletter
- Make a tax deductible financial donation

For more information, please contact us:

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GENERAL INFORMATION:

PlusLife

Perth Bone & Tissue Bank Inc.

PlusLife is a not-for-profit organisation
All our grafts are 100% donated and processed in Australia



**Enhancing lives
because of you**

All you need to know about who we are and what we do

ABOUT PLUSLIFE

PlusLife (Perth Bone & Tissue Bank Inc.) is a not-for-profit charitable organisation, recognised as one of Australia's premier tissue banks.

PlusLife collects, screens, stores, and distributes donated human bone and tissue grafts for use in surgical procedures.

Donated bone and tissue is used to treat patients with conditions such as spinal deformity, arthritic joint disease, bone cancers, sports injuries and those needing facial and dental reconstruction surgery.

PlusLife has a robust quality system in place to ensure our processes meet stringent regulatory standards; and our grafts can be transported safely throughout Australia and overseas (New Zealand & Singapore) as required.

Ethically approved research is conducted in our onsite R&D laboratory, which ensures that our processes produce grafts of the highest quality.

BONE AND TISSUE DONATION

PlusLife has two donor programs:

Living donor program

Patients undergoing hip replacement surgery can choose to donate the ball part of their hip joint (femoral head), which is removed and otherwise discarded as a routine part of the procedure.

Cadaveric (deceased) donor program

Like organ donation, bones, tendons, and ligaments can be donated after death.

It is important to discuss your wishes about organ and tissue donation with your family, so that your next of kin can make an informed decision if approached by a Donor Coordinator after your death.

You can register your donation wishes at your local Medicare office, or online at www.donorregister.gov.au

WHO CAN DONATE?

Without the generous gift of donation, PlusLife could not provide its grafts for patient treatment.

While a thorough review of your medical history will be required, you should not assume that you are too old or not healthy enough to donate.

Strict criteria and regulatory controls for screening and testing are in place to minimise the risk of the transmission of disease, thus ensuring the safety of recipients.



FACTS ABOUT BONE AND TISSUE DONATION

- Australia is a world leader for successful organ and tissue transplants.
- Tissue donation refers to the donation of bone, tendons, ligaments, corneas, heart valves and skin.
- One multi tissue donor can benefit many patients.
- Bone is the second most commonly transplanted material (Blood transfusions are most common).
- Bone and tissue donors and recipients do not have to be tissue matched and recipients do not need to take anti-rejection medication.
- Bone and tissue can be retrieved up to 36 hours after a person has passed away.
- Open-casket funerals are possible following deceased donation, as great care is taken and limbs are carefully reconstructed.
- Bone and tissue grafts are used in conjunction with other prosthetic implants such as plates and screws.
- Bone and other tissues can be safely stored in a frozen state for up to five years before use.

"The bone graft I received from PlusLife saved my leg from amputation. I will be forever grateful to the donor family"

- Jenni, bone graft recipient

BIANCA'S STORY

At 12 years old, after years of suffering constant and excruciating leg pain, Bianca was diagnosed with a large aneurysmal bone cyst on her right femur.

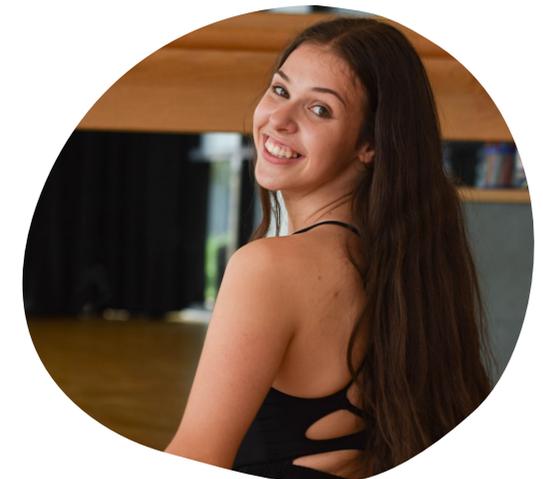
Aneurysmal bone cysts are benign bone lesions that predominantly occur in children and adolescents. They can cause severe pain, swelling and bone fractures.

Bianca had endured years of leg pain, with the pain eventually compromising her beloved hip hop and jazz dance classes, which she attended four times a week.

Further investigations revealed the cyst, a bubble like growth on the inside of her right femur, which was causing repeated bone fractures. She was then referred to an orthopaedic surgeon.

Bianca underwent surgery to remove the cyst and donor bone graft was transplanted into her femur. She was recovering well when a later routine X-ray revealed another cyst just above the original site. The second cyst was removed and another bone graft transplanted into Bianca's leg.

Bianca has returned to dancing and is extremely thankful for her bone donations and calls on others to consider becoming donors.



PlusLife
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