

Please enclose your communication along with the provided form in a pre-paid envelope.

Donor Family correspondence should be sent to:

PlusLife
PO Box 5042
Midland, WA 6056



"Gentleness, self-sacrifice and generosity are the exclusive possession of no one race or religion."

Mahatma Gandhi

For more information, please contact us:

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pluslife.org.au

INFORMATION FOR RECIPIENTS:

Writing to your donor's family

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



**Enhancing lives
because of you**

Writing to your donor's family

Tissue donation is very much like organ donation. Following the unexpected death of a loved one, families of the deceased person are approached by a Donor Coordinator and asked to consider the donation of tissues (such as bone, heart valves or cornea), for the purpose of transplantation.

As a part of your recent surgery, you received an Allograft - a human transplant donated by a generous donor. This graft was sourced from PlusLife (Perth Bone and Tissue Bank Inc.).

PlusLife is responsible for retrieving donated tissue, then testing and processing the tissue to make special grafts used in surgical procedures for bone tumours, spinal deformities, treatment of joint disease caused by trauma and arthritis; and general orthopaedic conditions and facial/dental reconstructions.

After surgery, some transplant recipients choose to write to their donor family to thank them for their gift, to share information about themselves and to let them know how receiving the transplant has changed their life.

Transplant recipients are encouraged to write to their donor family if and when it feels right to them. The decision to write is a deeply personal one. There is no right or wrong time and no right or wrong way to say 'thank you' to your donor family.

If you would like to do so, please send a card, letter or photograph to us. If your donor family has indicated they wish to receive correspondence from recipients, we will arrange for it to be forwarded on to them.

You might like to include information about your surgery, your age, sex, family, and length of illness. Most people describe their lifestyle prior to their transplant and how it has changed since their surgery.

The letter to the family should not include any identifying details, i.e. no name, address, or phone details.

"Our 19 yr old daughter became a tissue donor on 15/09/2008.

Alysha wanted to help others whenever she could and so her conversation with us about donating her organs and tissues was not a surprise. When we were asked whether she could be a donor, we knew what to do.

It has been a source of great pride for us to know many people have benefited from her generosity."

Bruce and Karen

Bruce, Karen, and many other families have expressed how much it means to hear from donor recipients. A letter at any stage of their journey would be cherished.

From our experience, donor families respond very well to receiving communication from patients who have received donated tissue. They see donation as being a positive outcome from what was a tragic circumstance and this is often quite a comfort as they deal with their loss. Your card, letter or photograph can reaffirm to them that their donation provided great well-being to others and that their gift of donation was worthwhile.

Some donor families say that writing about their loved one and their decision to donate helps them in their grief, so you may receive a response from your family. Other donor families, although they are comfortable with their decision to donate, prefer privacy and choose not to respond. Either way, communication to your donor family is a unique opportunity to express your appreciation for their decision to donate.

Everyone expresses their thanks in their own way. In nearly all cases, transplant recipients say that this is the most difficult letter they have ever written and that they had to re-write it many times before getting it right. Even so, it is a way of acknowledging the generosity of the gift of donation made by your donor family.

A small thank you goes a long way.

