

Project Title	How can we increase registration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities on the Australian Organ Donor Register?
Supervisor	Anita Rushall/Lauren Resnik
Address	
Telephone	02 5124 9928/02 5124 9287
Email	anita.rushall@act.gov.au/lauren.resnik@act.gov.au

Lead discipline (please select one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing and Midwifery | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Economics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allied Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Biostatistics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Value-based Healthcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-clinical | <input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Outline of the project 250 words max

The aim of this project is to help identify barriers and concerns regarding organ donation registration in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. This will help identify opportunities for ACT Health to engage with these populations and encourage an increase in registrations on the Australian Organ Donation Register

Rationale: Organ and tissue donation saves and transforms lives. Currently there are approximately 1600 people on a waitlist for a transplant in Australia. While organ donation rates have improved over the years, more people need to register as donors to make transplantation more accessible.

Despite a large proportion of the ACT population believing in organ and tissue donation, in 2020 only 25.3% of the population had registered as organ donors on the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR). Identifying the barriers to organ registration is essential in improving Australian's donation and transplantation program.

The issue of organ donation can be a difficult topic for people to discuss. In addition, cultural and religious beliefs and practices play an important role in people's decisions to register as an organ donor. Research indicates that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from CALD backgrounds are less likely to have registered as organ donors. However, the research in Australia and particularly the ACT, is limited and fails to provide an in-depth exploration on the factors that contribute to low registration rates in these groups.

This project will help identify opportunities to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and CALD communities and encourage an increase in registrations on the AODR.

Proposed research methods

A literature review of both quantitative and qualitative studies identifying the barriers to organ donation and registration will be conducted. The studies should primarily focus on the Australian context but international research can be included too.

Preferred study discipline being undertaken by the student

Health policy

Benefits to the student and to the department

Understanding the barriers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD communities to organ donation registration is essential in identifying opportunities to increase organ donation rates.

The student will gain skills in literature review and analysing and synthesising information. They will enhance their understanding and appreciation of how sociocultural influences affect health behaviour and impact health.

Alignment with Government Research Priorities 100w max

Increasing organ donation registration is a key priority area identified by ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD). Understanding the barriers to organ donation registration is essential in identifying opportunities and developing strategies to increase organ donation registration rates. This project additionally aligns with ACTHD priorities of delivering culturally appropriate health services.

Department within ACT Health Directorate / Canberra Health Services where the student will be based

Preventive and Population Health Policy.

Please submit form to preclinical.research@act.gov.au