

Epidemiology and identification of organ donors

Organ donation and transplantation has revolutionised the treatment of many end-stage chronic diseases. In the late 2000's, initiatives were introduced to increase organ donor numbers, through the creation of specific funded donation roles in all major Australian hospitals, the introduction of a national audit of all Emergency Department and ICU deaths, along with increased education, publicity and improved efforts to identify all potential donors. The increasing availability of both organ donation specific data and general ANZICS data about admissions to Intensive Care Units, now not only allows us to estimate the expected number of donors within a hospital, but also compare donation practices and assess the overall potential for donation in all Australian hospitals. This has been a progressive increase in donors to over 20 per million population. However, there remains potential to increase this even further particularly through identification of potential donors after circulatory death.