

This was my Press Release back in 2015 its the same today 8 year on and still our numbers have not grown with the current system so now we need to change to Zaidee's Law.



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Below is Allan Turners' thoughts on behalf of Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation as their Managing Director and Founder.

I wish to provide my thoughts on the Opt-Out system/laws which need to be introduced into Australia.

I have been campaigning for an Opt-Out system since 2015 called "Zaidee's Law."

I have been working full time running Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation in this sector for the past 17 years, after my daughter Zaidee suddenly died. At the age of 7 years and 22 days, she donated her organs and tissues, to 7 other children and adults.

I am the most passionate and vocal voice in Australia when it comes to increasing the donation rate, and have been for the past 17 years. I will continue to be, until the whole of Australia becomes an Opt-Out system for the better.

About Zaidee's Foundation-

Zaidee Rose Alexander Turner – aged 7 years and 22 days died suddenly on 2nd December 2004 from a burst blood vessel in her brain called a Cerebral Aneurism. Zaidee's parents, Kim and Allan, founded Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation not long after.

At the time of Zaidee's death the Turner family had been registered Organ and Tissue Donors for 5 years. As a result, Zaidee donated her organs and tissues at the Royal Children's Hospital, as were her wishes at the time.

Zaidee's gifts helped save or improve the lives of 7 people. 6 children and one adult received Zaidee's gifts.

Zaidee was the only child in Victoria under the age of 16 years, and we have been told one of the youngest Australians, to donate her organs and tissues in 2004. She was 1 of only 6 children nationally, to donate their organs in 2004.

Zaidee's Story is directed towards both children and adults so they can think about others who are waiting for a lifesaving operation and a suitable match for an organ or tissue. Think about giving this gift to others so they can live a better life and, in some cases, have a second chance at life.

Zaidee's gift of her organs and tissues to others will allow them to have another birthday. 1 in 5 people on the transplant waiting list will never get the chance to have another birthday if people do not become registered donors, but more importantly discuss this subject with their families.

The symbol of Zaidee's Rainbow Shoelaces is representative of hope; after every storm the sun shines and there is a rainbow. For those people on the transplant waiting list, the rainbow symbol offers them hope. At the end of their rainbow is an organ or tissue to improve their life, or in most cases save their life.

In 2004, the year Zaidee died, so too did 130,000 other Australians. Only 218 were organ donors.

In 2022, 170,000 Australians died but still only 454 were solid organ donors which allowed 1224 people to receive an organ transplant. Still not enough donors to make sure those on the waiting list get their much-needed transplant. This is a disgrace to say the least given the money and effort put in by the sector throughout the year.

Since 2004, to think, that we are now only sitting at 22nd in the world, and that this figure is due to the lack of initiative, thought and process put into the sector to inspire more people to be donors.

Data on community attitudes to organ and tissue donation also show that 76% of Australians have discussed donation with family members; 65% of Australians know family members' donation decisions; 95% of Australians would uphold these donation decisions when they are aware of these decisions; and just 42% of Australians who are unaware of family members' donation decisions would uphold those decisions.

Data also reflects that we have been going backwards with the donation rates prior to the Corona-Virus, and since then have not caught up. It is looking like we will not get back to the rates, prior to 2019, for a very long time. When many countries around the world have increased their donation rate after Covid, somehow, for no given reason other than a lack of effort at the top government levels, has not seen Australia follow suit?

What needs to change?

The system needs to go Opt-Out now, not in 5 or in 10 years' time! Why wait when we can move to this system within 2 years.

All eyes are now on the UK as Wales went Opt-Out back in 2015 and over the past few years England, Scotland and soon to be, Ireland will have all moved to this Opt-Out system.

Why did they?

As they, like us, have no grand plan to tackle the rates other than ask people to register and that is not working. Never has, never will! They have tried this and it never worked for them

as it does not work for us. If it did then we would have far greater donation rates than we do today.

When Wales went Opt-Out I visited them as part of a documentary called “Dying to Live”.

We asked their Chief Government Medical Director and a number of Donor Nurses how the changes have affected their system. Their reply was a massive turn around, when it was just sign up, to say the least. Families have now started to offer their loved one’s organs under the new Opt-Out system, even before being asked by hospital staff, versus the old system of just registration. What Wales did is what I am strongly suggesting. To develop over 2 years a community education and awareness program to re-educate every person on the up side of organ and tissue donation. Then to turn the system from Opt-In to Opt-Out. Data is reflecting that this new system is working successfully whereby the donor rates and outcomes are growing and increasing.

It’s not all about changing the system for the sake of it – it’s about changing the system for the long-term culture of Australia, as it is around the world.

In Spain, the culture is now if you die and can be a donor then that is just the way it is. They did have the Opt-Out system as their main push at their starting point and that was a trigger to get things moving then. The positive results are reflective of this year on. They now don’t rely on the Opt-Out system as much as their culture has now embedded the change and their hospital system had also changed over the year with more ICU beds and other infrastructure to allow them to be the world leaders in organ donation. They have been for decades now. Why then, don’t we follow their model and run the Opt-Out system as they did decades ago.

It is also about re-starting a discussion and education program which we have never ever had in this country about organ and tissue donation.

Never as a country have we provided details to the community about the whole process in which organ and tissue donation starts and ends. All we have provided them is a form to register and that is it.

Our major national campaign for the past few years is a call of action “Please Register” and that will fix and solve all the issues in this space. WRONG.

If you look at education as a whole – Zaidee’s is the only charity that targets children as young as 4 years old up to be engaged in this subject - no one else does.

Zaidee’s has been the face of organ and tissue donation in Australia for 17 years and keeps delivering strong outcomes to engage and inspire people to have the discussion within their families. Yet we cannot do this alone. Nor can the Governments.

Reason why we need Zaidee’s Law to be the face and front of any campaign that is to be launched.

Why?

As Zaidee is a real face for our campaign and we have many campaigns to engage others to support the organ and tissue donation outcomes we seek. We will see failure to change the law if it is just a Government campaign. It needs to be a third arm campaign such as Zaidee's backed by Government as not to reflect this is a doctoral campaign. In the past these campaigns that are solely run and driven by government are never that well supported and outcomes are never that great.

If WA is the first to change the law to Opt-Out, then I strongly suggest that Zaidee's is to be a part of the education program and long-term outcomes. We already have in the Prince Charles Hospital children's ward a Zaidee's plague. We have engaged most major sports teams in all codes to wear Zaidee's Rainbow Shoelaces in WA included Perth Wildcats – the two AFL teams over the years and cricket teams as well. Right down to grass roots sports in bringing this subject to the forefront.

We do have history in WA and I believe we can once again assist and support the WA government to make this change as smooth as possible.

I suggest having a charity like Zaidee's Foundation to come on board and become the face of change. This will allow the community to engage the subject as a result of a little girl's story, which is emotionally very powerful. We are not political for one side or another but have a very strong story to use, thus allowing the community to engage and support an Opt-Out system, in time.

You can look at all the data and seek answers as to what needs to be done and work a way around the outcomes – this will take a very long time and also data changes year upon year so if you are prepared to make these change each year as to what the data reflects, then that is fine.

Or you just run simple campaigns with simple messages that are backed by simple figures to inspire people to start a discussion within their families and that the campaign can be relatable to them and their loved ones.

No other campaign is as strong as showing a grieving family and what that family did at the end of that family members life, to draw attention and deliver the results needed.

Sadly, showing stories of people that have had a transplant and the outcome of that success is not heart string pulling – yes, it's a light weight story to be told and happy for them – but it does not cut through if it was, or is, the donor family telling their story. This is what we want others to do, also become donor families - not to just reflect transplant outcomes to get results.

Would you rather see a person who wins Tattsлото or the person who really needs to win Tatts?

As a country known for its Tall Poppy Syndrome, we see people who have been successful and, in many ways, turn the cheek. People who are struggling and have a sad story, often receive the better air time as our hearts and thoughts go out to them, rather than to rich and

successful person who seems to have it all. Please take this as an example of how we should go about campaigning and seeking support for organ donation. I strongly suggest that the grieving family has far better awareness and education to be used for any advertising campaign or advert than the person who just received a new heart ever will.

Turning the advert into a reflection about giving life and saving a person that you will never meet, rather than showing a smiling person that has a second chance in life. Lovely to see, but that has no emotional pull, but, on the flip side, what you can do in death is far greater than what you can do in life.

This is the same in this space where I have been drumming about on 2 decades. Show the sad story, tell the heartbreak side of life, what we as a family went through, then show or mention the outcome first – this hits the mark and this gets results.

Government should follow and do what the community want > Yes

If the community wants Op-Out, then let's do it. I believe you would have 95% support for this new Opt-Out system, if not more when I do presentations in the community since 2015 when we launch our Opt-Out campaign.

Yes, there are a number of hurdles to jump over but when we see over 67% of the world countries that run an Opt-Out system then they have already broken the hurdles, we just need to follow what they did successfully and just do it.

In the UK their demographic around multi culture diversity is even greater than Australia and yet they managed and got their Opt-Out system up and running supported by both side of politics. Now it is our turn to do the same.

I end with the words “If a 7 little girl called Zaidee can be an organ and tissue donor then anyone can”.

Finally, please read this Poem I wrote just after Zaidee grew her wings to heaven.

Zaidee's Poem

When Zaidee was taken in for her final operation to be an organ and tissue donor.

She did not need her bright blue eyes to see

Her lungs to breathe

Her little heart to pump blood around her tiny body

Nor did she need her kidneys or liver again

You see she had died.

All Zaidee needed to take to heaven was the love from her Mum, Dad and brother Jaz.

But other little children just down the hall in the same hospital did need her heart, her liver just to live life again.

These kids are now home with their mums and dads, brothers, sisters and friends again.

Two little kids got to see properly again, to see the face's of their Mum and Dad when they each received one of Zaidee's cornea's.

A new born and an infant got a second chance for life from parts of Zaidee's heart.

A mother received her greasiest gift ever, both of Zaidee's Kidneys.

What Zaidee gave in death was life to other children and a mother because we as a family discussed this before a death in our family years before just in case.

Our little girl Zaidee gave the greatest gift of all, her organs and tissues, she is now our angel in heaven who we are so very proud of for what she achieved in her short 7 years and 22 days of life that many of us will never do and that is to give life to others.

Zaidee's spirit and her memory will live on and on and on.

"Written by a very proud Dad, Allan."

Best wishes,

Allan Turner
Managing Director and Founder
Zaidee's Proud Dad.



MEDIA RELEASE

Zaidee's Law

This is our ongoing campaign urging Australia to **totally scrap** its current organ/tissue donation system – and follow the lead of many countries including Spain, Wales, Singapore, Belgium and others and create an “OPT-OUT” system.

This would effectively mean everyone aged 18 plus is a potential donor ... unless they Opt-Out.

Zaidee's Rainbow Foundation has campaigned for over a decade on the topic. Managing Director Allan Turner says a simple legislation change would mean organ/tissue donations would have the potential to lift our donation rate far faster and quicker than the currently model. He says Australia currently sits around 22nd in the world when it comes to organ donation. One of the worst donation rates by a first world country when it comes to organ/tissue donation and highlights a horrifying number of children will die within 12 months because of a lack of donations.

Allan Turner says it's time to make a simply major change so that millions of Australians automatically become registered donors rather than wait for them to sign up as a donor. The currently system has only 1/3rd of Australian's registered. The new system would see 18millions people as potential donors rather than 6million we have currently.

A new campaign is now underway highlighting that Australia needs to **totally scrap** its current organ/tissue donation system and follow the lead of numerous countries including England, Wales, Spain, Austria, Belgium and Singapore and create legislation to introduce an 'OPT-OUT' system for human organ and tissue donation.

Allan Turner says the current system of organ donation in Australia is NOT working. He says it has never worked and never will to achieve the out-comes needed to save and improves lives going forward as we expect it to. He says a new system will create more donations and expects organ and tissue donation to be lifted by at least 20% in a decade of the change.

Allan Turner says **93%% of the Australian community now support an OPT-OUT system**. He says many nurses and doctors also support the change but are being held back from some level of Government and the Hospital system.

The not-for-profit Zaidee Rainbow Foundation has campaigned tirelessly on organ/tissue donation for over a decade following the sudden death of 7-year-old Zaidee Turner (his daughter) back in December 2004 from a burst blood vessel in her brain called an aneurism.

At the time, Zaidee was the only child in Victoria under 16 years of age to be donor. Allan Turner then set up a not-for-profit foundation to urge Australians to lift their game when it comes to the number of organs and tissues donated.

Allan Turner highlights that an opt-out system is working **very effectively** in over 65% of the world countries. He says it is time we had the exact same system in Australia.

Out of the top 22 countries in the world 18 countries run an Opt-Out system

Allan Turner says it is a critical way forward to clearly increase the donation rate for Australians who are on the never-ending waiting list for organs and tissues is currently around the 1800 plus each month, and that is not including the thousands that are not already on the waiting list for a transplant.

He says the creation of an 'OPT-OUT' system would mean all people aged 18 plus would be deemed to have consented to have their organs or tissues donated to another human being in the event of their death... unless they decided to Opt-Out of the system by then signing a form to say no.

Allan Turner says, "There is more up-side to the to the OPT-OUT system than there is to the currently system. This has been proven around the world where countries run this system and have for done for decades. Many of these countries are listed well above Australia on world best practice. This is what we should also aim to achieve under this system".

"Families will still have final consent as they do around the world. An Opt-Out system allows hospitals and donor coordinators to have a great opportunity to start the discussion with family members around organ and tissue donation."

In Spain people will say it is part of their culture to be a donor. Nobody thinks twice when asked to be a donor at end of life. We need to make it the new culture in Australia under this system."

He adds "This will allow every Australian to have a discussion around and about organ and tissue donation. Currently it is a voluntary system that if not asked you will not commit to a yes or a no. The difference is that this new system will give those that are waiting for a transplant a better chance. Just ask those who have been waiting for a kidney transplant for up to 7 years or a child who is not able to find a liver or heart donor and will die waiting on the list."

He says current statistics clearly show why Australia's current system of organ/tissue donation must be scrapped. He points out:

- Half of the estimated 50 children (under 19) currently waiting for a transplant will die in the next 12 months simply because of the lack of organ/tissue donations.
- 1 in 5 people on the current waiting list will tragically die before they receive a transplant.
- If you are told today you need a kidney transplant, you will currently have to wait a minimum of 3 years (possibly 7) before you even get one.

He adds "Australia has one of the world's worst donation rates in the Western World. We desperately need this change. We need a culture in Australia that accepts if people pass on, wherever possible their organs and

tissues should help give the gift of life to others. We are going backwards when it comes to outcomes for both donors and transplants over the past years. This is now not related to covid issues anymore.

"We know right now an estimated 25 children waiting for a transplant will be dead within 12 months because of a lack of donations. That is horrifying."

Allan Turner says with a strong community groundswell there is every chance the current ineffective system will change. He highlights that many people just do not like talking about death – yet the reality is everybody will die. Why not be a donor at the end of life to save another.

Allan Turner says "If we go with an Opt-Out system then we will have twice or three times that number as listed donors at end of life. Children under the age of 16 will not be part of this system but will still need to have a discussion with their parents as to what their actual wishes are."

Seeking support from our national and local Health Ministers to make this change and start working toward increasing the donation rate in Australia as it is not working under the current system."

He says critical research from the University of Nottingham, University of Stirling and Northumbria in the UK analysed carefully the organ donation systems of 48 countries over 13 years. 23 opt-in and 25 opt-out. Researchers clearly found countries using an opt-out system had bigger numbers of kidneys donated – which is the highest in demand organ many people wait for. They also concluded that opt-out systems had a higher number of organ transplants.

Allan Turner says "It is now time for change. It is time to move forward. We know current organ donation rates are far too low. We know far too many Australians have to wait for organs. We *can* change this. This is all about one thing only...*saving lives*."

"If a little 7-year-old girl called Zaidee can be an organ and tissue donor, then anyone can"

Allan Turner

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List of OPT-OUT countries – provided by Allan Turner of the Zaidee’s Rainbow Foundation:

1. Spain
2. Austria
3. Latvia
4. Portugal
5. Belgium
6. Estonia
7. France
8. Italy
9. Slovenia
10. Finland
11. Hungary
12. Czech Republic
13. Norway
14. Poland
15. Sweden
16. Israel
17. Croatia
18. Cyprus
19. Slovak Republic
20. Luxembourg
21. Greece
22. Turkey
23. Bulgaria
24. Wales
25. England
26. Ireland

<http://www.quora.com/How-can-organ-donation-rates-be-improved>



FREE DATABASE



COUNTRY REPORTS



DONATIONS IN 2019

DONATION ACTIVITY CHARTS

Red line is an Opt-Out system

2019

WORLDWIDE ACTUAL DECEASED ORGAN DONORS 2019 (PMP)

