



Australian  
National  
University



**BODY DONATION PROGRAM**  
INFORMATION FOR  
PROSPECTIVE DONORS

ANU College of  
Medicine, Biology  
& Environment

# ANU Medical School

The Australian National University Medical School's teaching program commenced in February 2004. The program is a four year graduate entry medical degree, composed of biomedical, population health and social sciences and aims to produce graduates who are committed to compassionate, ethical health care and the expansion of medical knowledge.

A sound knowledge of human anatomy is the foundation of medical learning. Students given the privilege of performing detailed examination of human bodies learn faster and gain a special insight into how our bodies are structured. This knowledge helps students to become better health professionals, and contributes directly to the high standard of medical care available to our community.

This is why we are extremely grateful to those members of the public who donate their bodies after death to our Medical School. This generosity contributes to the high standard of training our medical students receive.



# Frequently asked questions

“Body donors make a contribution to the community at large, by making possible higher standards of medical education and practice, which are of benefit to all”

Lecturer, ANU

## 1. How do I donate my body?

The procedure of donating one's body to the University is very simple. Two copies of the Body Donation Form are included in this pack. If you decide to donate, simply fill out the forms and return one copy in the envelope provided or to the address below and keep another copy with your will. You will receive a letter of acknowledgement.

Contact Details for the Body Donation Coordinator

Body Donation Program Coordinator

ANU Medical School

ANU College of Medicine Biology and Environment

T 0405 654 310 E [bodydonation@anu.edu.au](mailto:bodydonation@anu.edu.au) W [medicalschool.anu.edu.au](http://medicalschool.anu.edu.au)

There is no payment for an acceptance of a body donation.

## 2. Can my family donate my body on my behalf?

The University does not accept body donations in the absence of witnessed consent forms signed by the donor.

## 3. If I have signed the Donation Form, will the University definitely accept my body?

A signed Body Donation Form does not guarantee acceptance of your body. As we use donated bodies to study the normal structure of the whole human body, we may not be able to accept the body if the donor:

- > is obese or emaciated
- > has been significantly altered by certain medical conditions or procedures\* including amputation
- > has undergone an autopsy
- > has been embalmed
- > has undergone whole organ donation
- > has Creutzfeldt Jacob Disease (CJD), any form of dementia, or is suspected of having certain notifiable diseases
- > has a gastrointestinal cancer, including bowel cancer
- > has recently undertaken chemotherapy
- > has jaundice
- > has been deceased for more than 72 hours or cannot be transferred to the ANU Anatomy Laboratories within 72 hours
- > the distance for body transportation exceeds 200 km
- > laboratory storage limitations.

\* Due to variations in procedures, exceptions may be made in some cases

If the body is not suitable for donation, the next of kin will be notified immediately so they can make alternative funeral arrangements. The University cannot be held liable for any costs incurred through the refusal of a donation. It is incumbent upon the next-of-kin or the attending medical personnel, to obtain acceptance of the body prior to its transport.

## “Anatomy learning forms an important part of medical education and the medical student experience”

ANU Medical student

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## “Body donation is vital to medical training”

Body Donor

### 4. If the University has my signed form, what happens after my death?

When a potential donor's death occurs, the next of kin or the person legally responsible should:

- > obtain a Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death
- > contact the ANU Medical School Body Donation Coordinator to check if donation is deemed suitable
- > if the body is accepted, the Medical School will notify and register the death with the relevant government authorities (Registration of Death).

### 5. If my body is accepted, what happens then?

After consultation with the body donation coordinator and notification that the body will be accepted, the body will be transported by the preferred funeral director to the ANU Medical School, at no cost to the next of kin.

The nominated funeral director in the Canberra area is:

Tobin Brothers Funeral Services  
T 02 6295 2799

The body will undergo an embalming process that will preserve the tissue. The study of a body extends over a number of years and in some cases bodies, or selected parts, will be kept indefinitely for use in teaching and research. For this reason donation of a body for the purpose of teaching and research is final and unconditional.

### 6. Will my privacy be protected?

ANU is grateful for your generosity and your contribution to the advancement of medicine and community health. Dignity, respect and anonymity are accorded the deceased during and after anatomical studies.

The information you have provided on this form will only be used by ANU to maintain a register of donations and to facilitate retention and cremation of your body. ANU may disclose your personal information to third parties such as contractors or other agencies/persons responsible for the care of deceased persons. ANU may also disclose your personal information to various law enforcement agencies and governments for licensing, security and customs purposes.

### 7. Will my body ever be buried or cremated?

The cremation of bodies and tissues following the completion of anatomical study will be arranged by the ANU Medical School and carried out by Broulee Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, in accordance with the relevant government regulations. The ANU Medical School will meet all expenses involved. The ashes are then returned to the next of kin if requested.

### 8. What if I change my mind?

You may, at any time, revise or revoke your preference or your wishes you have made on this form by notification to the following address:

Body Donation Program Coordinator  
ANU Medical School  
ANU College of Medicine Biology & Environment  
The Australian National University  
Florey Building 54  
Mills Road, Acton, ACT, 0200

T 0405 654 310  
E [bodydonation@anu.edu.au](mailto:bodydonation@anu.edu.au)  
W [medicalschooll.anu.edu.au](http://medicalschooll.anu.edu.au)



**“Through the generous gift of body donation, we, the medical students, learn the discipline of Anatomy, the study of the form and function of the human body – the ancient foundation of Medicine”**

ANU Medical student

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### **Memorial Garden**

The ANU Memorial Gardens, at Broulee Crematorium and on the ANU campus, honour the contribution of those who have donated their bodies to the Medical School for teaching

of anatomy. The gardens are place of remembrance and reflection, which relatives and friends of donors are welcome to visit. The ashes of donors may be collected by their relatives, but those ashes which remain in the care of the Medical School find a final resting place in the Garden

at Broulee, NSW. The campus Memorial Garden features a sculpture, Phoenix, by artist Jan Brown, representing the mythical firebird being reborn from the flames, symbolising renewal of the spirit.

# CONTACT US

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