



Australian
National
University



Body Donation Program

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE DONORS

ANU
Body Donation Program

ANU Body Donation Program

The Australian National University is grateful to members of the community who generously donate their bodies to the University after death. These generous contributions to the Body Donation Program support the high standard of training received by medical students at the ANU School of Medicine and Psychology.

A sound knowledge of human anatomy is the foundation of medical learning. Students given the rare privilege of performing detailed examination of human bodies learn faster and gain a special insight the anatomical structures and relationships that exist within the human body. This knowledge helps students to become better health professionals and contributes directly to the high standard of medical care available to our community.

The Doctor of Medicine and Surgery program offered by the School of Medicine and Psychology is a four-year postgraduate medical degree, composed of biomedical science, population health and social sciences, and aims to produce graduates who are committed to compassionate ethical health care and the expansion of medical knowledge.



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. A copy of the Body Donation Form is 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. We also recommend that you take a photocopy and keep this in your records. You will receive a letter of acknowledgement.

Contact Details for the Body Donation Coordinator

Body Donation Coordinator

ANU Body Donation Program

T: 0405 654 310

E: bodydonation@anu.edu.au

W: <https://medicine-psychology.anu.edu.au/partner-us/collaborate-us/body-tissue-donation>

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

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

In the absence of a duly signed and witnessed consent form, the University cannot accept donations.

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 or radiation therapy
- > has jaundice
- > has been deceased for more than 48 hours or cannot be transferred to the Anatomy Laboratories within 48 hours
- > the distance for body transportation exceeds 100 km
- > laboratory storage limitations.
- > tests positive to COVID19 at time of death
- > staffing availability and/or closure of Anatomy Labs

* 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

“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 Body Donation Coordinator at the ANU Body Donation program to check if donation is deemed suitable
- > If the body is accepted, the School of Medicine and Psychology 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 School of Medicine and Psychology, 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 School of Medicine and Psychology and carried out by Canberra Memorial Parks and Crematorium, located in Gungahlin in accordance with the relevant government regulations.

The School of Medicine and Psychology 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 Body Donation Program
Florey Building, 54 Mills Road
The Australian National University
Acton, ACT, 2601**

T: 0405 654 310

E: bodydonation@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

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 School of Medicine and Psychology 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

Body Donation Coordinator
ANU Body Donation Program
Florey Building, 54 Mills Road
The Australian National University
Canberra ACT 2600

T: 0405 654 310

E: bodydonation@anu.edu.au

W: <https://medicine-psychology.anu.edu.au>