

What happens at the end of the process?

The donor is respectfully cremated, at the University's expense, and the ashes are returned to the family or Executor. If the donor or the donor's family would prefer a burial this is possible but the University does not help with the arrangements nor bear any of the associated costs.

Can I be registered as an organ donor as well as a Body Bequest Program donor?

Yes, a donor can be registered with both programs. However, if the donor is deemed suitable for organ donation then this excludes them from participating in the Body Bequest Program.

What if I change my mind?

You may, at any time and for any reason, revise or revoke your wish to contribute to the Body Bequest Program by contacting the Coordinator and advising them of the change.

How long will the University retain the body?

Legally the University can retain the body of a donor for up to five years. However, there are options, on the donor form, for the body to be held indefinitely or for a specified time period (not less than three years). The usual time frame for the retention of a donor is two to three years.

Will my body stay in Tasmania?

Generally a donated body will remain within the state of Tasmania. However there may be occasions where a body is transferred to an interstate institution. If this occurs, at the end of the process the body will be repatriated to the state and the ashes made available to the family.

If you choose not to donate your body then please consider making a donation to the Body Bequest Program through the University Foundation (phone 6226 7521). Your generous support will also assist this important program.

ENQUIRIES

Further information about the Body Bequest Program can be obtained by contacting the University at the address and phone number listed below.

Coordinator, Body Bequest Program
University of Tasmania
Private Bag 34
Hobart 7001

Phone: 1800 792 661

Email: Body.bequest@utas.edu.au

Web address: www.medicine.utas.edu.au/bodybequest



School of
Medicine

Body Bequest Program



FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCE





BODY BEQUEST PROGRAM

The Body Bequest Program is run by the University of Tasmania, Faculty of Health Science to enable people to 'donate their body to science'. The program is used for the teaching of human anatomy for medical and health professionals such as doctors, nurses, paramedics, dentists and scientists. Even with today's technology there is no substitute for the direct, practical teaching of human anatomy. The medical professionals of tomorrow depend on this vital and highly personal gift to enrich their training. The opportunity to examine the human body and its complexities is a privilege, and the University is extremely grateful to everyone who donates their body to this program.

BECOMING A DONOR

The most important part in becoming a donor is that you must discuss your wish with your family. If your family is unaware or unhappy regarding the bequest the University will be unable to accept the bequest.

Once you have discussed your intentions with your family and you still wish to become a donor, contact us and we will send you the relevant information and forms for you to complete.

All donors are provided with an identification card which should be carried in a wallet or purse to enable easy identification as a University body donor.

Anyone over the age of 18 can become a donor and

there is no upper age limit. However, certain medical conditions may exclude a person from becoming a donor. The Program uses donated bodies to study the normal structure of the whole human body. Whilst we strive to accept all donations there may be circumstances in which a donor is not suitable because the normal structure has been altered by a medical condition. Such instances may arise because the donor:

- is the subject of a coronial enquiry or a post mortem examination;
- has had a recent operation prior to death;
- has the possible existence of a contagious disease;
- has undergone whole organ donation;
- has Creutzfeldt Jacob Disease (CJD);
- is obese or emaciated;
- has widespread cancer;
- has been assessed to be unsuitable for embalming;
- has been significantly altered by certain medical conditions or procedures.

All donations are considered on a case by case basis at the time of death and there may be exceptions in some cases. Donations cannot be accepted if the donor has been deceased more than 4 days or if the family does not wish the donation to proceed. Donations may also not be accepted subject to the University's storage limitations.

The University reserves the right to decline acceptance of a body, for any reason, after death. If the University declines to accept the body, it will not be responsible for the funeral arrangements or associated costs. Consequently, the donor and their family are strongly advised to have alternative arrangements in place in the event that the body is unable to be accepted at the time of death.

When a donation is accepted, the University will make arrangements and meet expenses for the transport and eventual cremation of the body. After cremation the ashes will then be available to the family. The University may retain a donor's body for up to five years but the usual time frame is two to three years.

The University of Tasmania ensures total confidentiality throughout the entire body donation process.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can my family have a funeral service?

Yes, but this must be completed within four days of the death. Arrangements for services or notices in the paper etc. should be made with a Funeral Director of your choice – the University does not help with these arrangements nor bear any of the associated costs.