

A member of your family, a friend or a client has recently registered with the Body Bequest Program at the University of Tasmania.

This program enables people to 'donate their body to science' and make a unique contribution to the study of anatomy and the advancement of medicine. The program predominantly assists in teaching medical and allied health students and training professionals such as doctors, surgeons, nurses and paramedics.

This document is to assist you with the process to follow when a donor passes away. Please keep it in a safe place for future reference.

The University, its staff and students, and medical and health professionals are extremely grateful to everyone who donates to the program and to the families who support this decision.

If you have any questions about the program please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Body Bequest Program



Procedure to follow upon the death of a Body Bequest Program donor

This document has been developed to help family members and/or Executors with the process of what to do when a Body Bequest Program (BBP) donor passes away.

When a donor passes away please take the following actions

1. As soon as possible after the death please call the Body Bequest Program on

1800 792 661

This number is operational between the hours of 9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday – Friday.

2. **If a donor passes away in a hospital** outside these hours, the deceased will be transferred to an on-site cool storage facility. If a cool storage facility is not available, please contact a Funeral Director of your choice to transfer the donor into their care. Please call the above number the next business day to inform the BBP staff of the donor's death.
3. **If a donor passes away in a nursing home** (or similar) outside these hours and a cool storage facility is not available, please contact a funeral director of your choice to transfer the donor into their care. Please call the above number the next business day to inform the BBP staff of the donor's death.
4. **If a donor passes away at home** outside these hours, please call the ambulance or community nurses (if they have been providing home care) and they will assist. If the donor is to remain at home until BBP Staff can be contacted, please keep them cool (e.g. no heating or electric blanket). If the donor needs to be removed from the premises, please contact a funeral director of your choice to transfer them into their care. Please call the above number the next business day to inform the BBP staff of the donor's death.

BEFORE a donor can be accepted into the program a medical history must be given to Body Bequest Program staff by a senior nurse, attending physician or regular GP.

Once BBP staff have been notified of the passing of a donor, they will obtain the medical history as quickly as possible so that the family can be notified as to whether or not the donation is able to proceed.

An **OPTIONAL** medical assessment can be done ahead of time if a donor is deteriorating and medical staff have indicated that it is likely they will pass away within a week. This option can be helpful to families in terms of indicating whether or not the donation is likely to proceed and also assists with the planning process. A final decision will be made at the time of death.

Funeral companies and medical staff do **NOT** have the authority to decide if a donor can be accepted or rejected by the Body Bequest Program.

If the donor is accepted into the program, BBP staff will liaise with the family to arrange collection of the donor for transport to the University.

If the donor is unable to be accepted, the family will be informed that alternative arrangements must be made. Unfortunately, the University cannot guarantee acceptance of all donors by the Body Bequest Program.

Can there be a funeral service?

Yes. The donor must be received by the University within five (5) days of the death. **BEFORE** this time has expired the family may, if they wish, arrange for a normal funeral service through a Funeral Director of their choice. The University does not cover any costs associated with such services.

Thank you for your support.

For more information about the Body Bequest Program, please visit utas.edu.au/bodybequest or call 1800 792 661