INFORMATION FOR DONORS AND THEIR NEXT OF KIN

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ PRIOR
 TO COMPLETING THE DONOR CONSENT
FORM. YOU ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION
AVAILABLE TO YOUR NOMINATED NEXT OF KIN IF YOU DECIDE TO BECOME
A DONOR. IT IS YOUR NEXT OF KIN THE BEQUEST COORDINATOR WILL

COMMUNICATE WITH AT TIME OF DEATH. NEXT OF KIN NEED TO BE AWARE
OF HOW THE BODY DONATION PROGRAM WORKS TO MINIMISE ANY
DISTRESS TO THEM AT THAT DIFFICULT TIME.

The Discipline of Anatomy and Pathology, in the Division of Tropical Health and
Medicine at James
Cook
University (JCU or ‘the University’), runs a donor bequest
program
 for the purposes of teaching, examination,
 study and investigation of human
anatomy
 and pathology.
Most of the bodies donated to the program are used in the education
 of anatomical
sciences to North Queensland's future doctors, physiotherapists, occupational

therapists, speech pathologists, nurses, pharmacists, sports scientists and
practitioners, and research scientists. Some bodies are used for the advanced
training of surgeons and other specialists and some contribute to the investigation of
human anatomy
 and pathology.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who can
 apply to become a donor?

Once I am a registered donor, will my body automatically be accepted
 at
the time of death?

No. We appreciate your generous donation, but some circumstances may prevent
the acceptance of your body. It should be understood that determination of the
suitability of a body for donation can only be made at the time of death, since the
cause of death may render the donation unsuitable for study. To avoid undue grief
and disappointment to members of your family, they should be made aware of
these conditions and exclusions and have alternative funeral arrangements in
place just in case.
JCU is unable to accept your body if:

•more than 24 hours have elapsed between the time of death and notifying the
University
•more than 48 hours have elapsed between the time of death and delivery of
the body to the University facilities
•the donor dies further than 400km away from Townsville•t

What happens when I die?
At the time of death, the next-of-kin should notify the Human Bequest Coordinator by
telephone as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours. Once the Human Bequest
Coordinator has completed the necessary checks and certified the cause of death, a
decision is made on whether the body may be accepted. The Human Bequest
Coordinator will make arrangements for the body to be transported by a professional
funeral director to the University, where a final decision is made as to whether or not
the body will be accepted into the program. If accepted, the body will be embalmed
to preserve the tissues and prevent deterioration prior to use. The body is then used
for teaching, study, examination and/or investigation of human anatomy and
pathology. Upon completion, your body is then cremated individually, and the ashes
either scattered at the memorial garden at Woongarra Crematorium or returned to
the Next of Kin.
If, for whatever reason, a bequest cannot be accepted, the family is advised to
make private funeral arrangements. No financial obligation is accepted by JCU
in these circumstances.
Can I also be an organ donor?
You may be registered as an organ donor and a body donor but if at the time of
death organs are removed for organ donation, then the University cannot accept
your body.
Can my family have a funeral or a memorial service?
A traditional funeral is not possible because your body must be transferred promptly
to the University. The families of many donors hold a memorial service instead.
The University organises an official Commemorative Thanksgiving Service to
commemorate donors. Relatives and friends of donors, as well as students and staff
of the Division of Tropical Health and Medicine, are invited to attend these
ceremonies.
What if my family does not agree with my wish to donate my body?
If a donor’s family has any objection to the donation after death, the University
reserves the right to decline acceptance of your body.
Can I change my mind about donating my body?
You may withdraw your donation at any time, prior to your death, by notifying the
Human Bequest Coordinator of your decision. We will acknowledge by letter that we
have received your request.

For further information on the University’s Body Donor Program contact:

Human Bequest Coordinator

Discipline of Anatomy

College of Medicine and Dentistry

James Cook University

Townsville QLD 4811

Email: humanbequest.coordinator@jcu.edu.au

Phone: 07 4781 5022