

2019

Eye and tissue donation and transplantation

Each year the lives of thousands of Australians are transformed through deceased eye donation, and living and deceased tissue donation and transplantation.

Donated eye tissue can restore sight while skin tissue can be used to treat severe burns. Heart valves can be used to replace faulty ones, especially in children.

Musculoskeletal tissue donations can become many different types of grafts that can be transplanted to restore functionality and mobility to those in need.

Unlike organ donation, people do not need to die in a hospital intensive care unit or emergency department to donate eyes and tissue after death. Almost anyone can be considered for eye and tissue donation, and donation needs to take place within 24–48 hours of death.

Eye donation and corneal transplantation

In 2019, a record

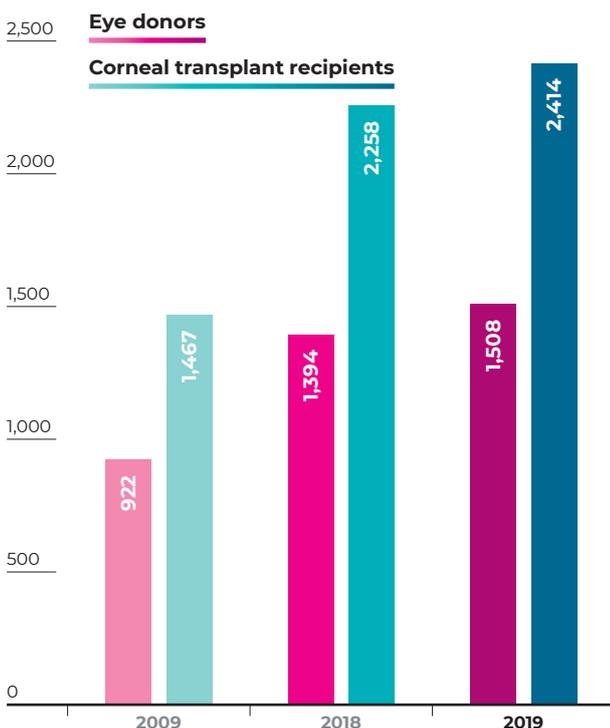
2,414 **1,508**

Australians received a corneal transplant through the generosity of...

deceased eye donors and their families who agreed to donation

This is a 7% increase in the number of corneal transplant recipients compared with 2018 and a 65% increase compared with 2009, the year the national program started.

In 2019 eye donation, and subsequently corneal transplantation, continued to meet demand.



Tissue donation and transplantation

In 2019, there were

10,310 **3,816**

reported tissue transplant recipients, and

tissue donors

The donors included 3,504 living and 312 deceased tissue donors. There were also 41 living amnion tissue donors and 143 amnion tissue recipients reported for the first time in 2019, not included in the total above.

While the number of tissue donors decreased compared with 2018, the number of tissue transplant recipients increased by 25%. The number of tissue recipients is almost three times the number in 2013, the first year that national tissue data was reported.

