Chapter 1

VISUAL SUMMARY OF DECEASED ORGAN DONATION ACTIVITY IN AUSTRALIA AND AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

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PUBLICATION NOTES

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SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

This visual summary provides an overview of deceased organ donation and transplantation activity in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand for the 2025 calendar year.

Australia recorded 557 actual deceased organ donors (20.2 per million population [pmp]), an increase from 527 donors (19.4 pmp) in 2024. This change was primarily associated with increased donation following circulatory determination of death (229 in 2025 compared with 192 in 2024), while neurological pathway donation remained relatively stable.

Aotearoa New Zealand recorded 60 actual deceased organ donors (11.3 pmp) in 2025, compared with 70 donors (13.1 pmp) in 2024. As seen in smaller donation systems, year-to-year variation can occur and was observed across both neurological and circulatory pathways.

Transplantation activity reflected these patterns. In Australia, 1,438 people received a transplant in 2025, an increase from 1,328 in 2024, with growth observed across kidney (31.1 vs. 29.8 pmp), liver (11.0 vs. 10.5 pmp), lung (5.8 vs. 5.0 pmp), and heart (4.5 vs. 3.9 pmp) transplantation. In Aotearoa New Zealand, 174 people received a transplant in 2025, compared with 213 in 2024, with variation observed across all major organ groups.

Kidney and liver transplantation remained the highest-volume procedures in both countries. Pancreas transplantation activity remained stable in Australia (1.7 vs. 1.6 pmp) and increased in Aotearoa New Zealand (1.1 vs. 0.7 pmp), noting the smaller overall procedural numbers.

Variation in Donation Activity

In 2025, Australia observed an increase in deceased organ donation, while Aotearoa New Zealand demonstrated year-to-year variation, consistent with smaller donor populations.

Multi-organ transplantation activity continued in both jurisdictions. Australia performed 41 kidney–pancreas and 8 kidney–liver transplants, in addition to rare procedures including intestine transplantation (0.1 pmp) and a combined intestine–liver–pancreas transplant. Aotearoa New Zealand completed 6 kidney–pancreas and 2 kidney–liver transplants.

Intended deceased donor rates (7.6 pmp in Australia and 2.1 pmp in Aotearoa New Zealand) provide additional context on donation activity, reflecting cases where donation was considered but not realised.

DONATION AND TRANSPLANT IN AUSTRALIA

Organ donors

Actual donors

557 actual deceased organ donors

actual deceased organ donors per million population **20.2 pmp**

By donation pathway

328 neurological

229 circulatory

Intended donors

210 intended deceased organ donors

intended deceased organ donors per million population **7.6 pmp**

By donation pathway

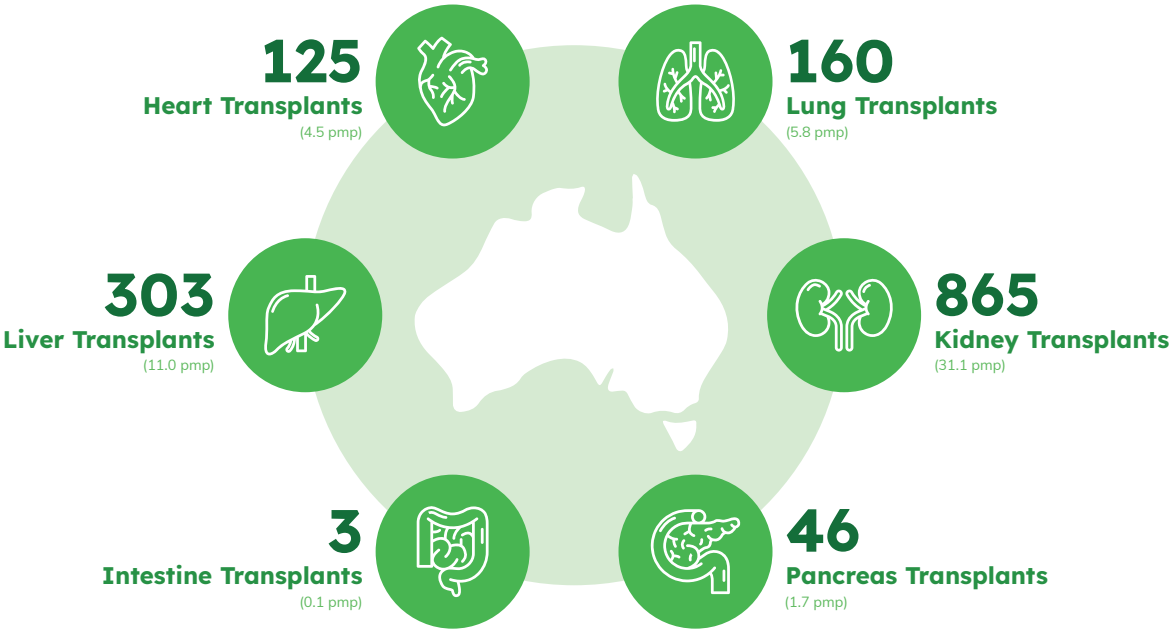
54 neurological

156 circulatory

Transplant recipients

1,438 Australians received an organ transplant from a deceased donor in 2025

This number includes recipients of multi-organ transplants.



Multi-organ transplants

41 kidney & pancreas	**8** kidney & liver	**4** kidney & lung	**4** heart & lung	**2** kidney & heart	**2** liver & pancreas	**1** intestine & pancreas	**1** intestine, liver & pancreas

DONATION AND TRANSPLANT IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

Organ donors

Actual donors

60 actual deceased organ donors

actual deceased organ donors per million population **11.3 pmp**

By donation pathway

45 neurological

15 circulatory

Intended donors

11 intended deceased organ donors

intended deceased organ donors per million population **2.1 pmp**

By donation pathway

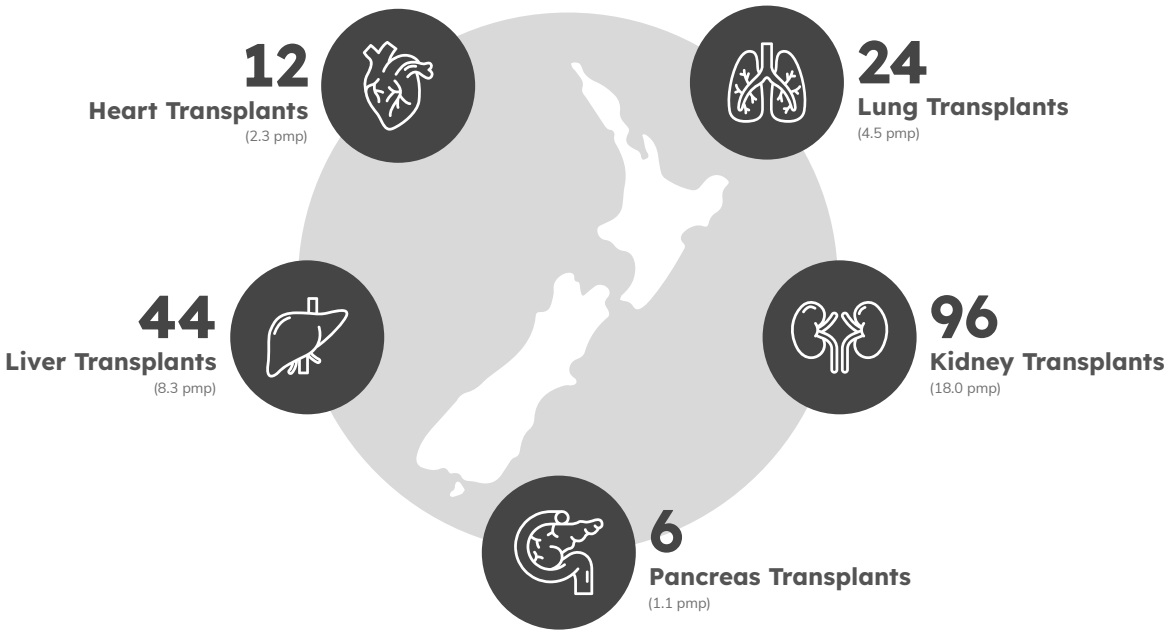
6 neurological

5 circulatory

Transplant recipients

174 New Zealanders received an organ transplant from a deceased donor in 2025

This number includes recipients of multi-organ transplants.



Multi-organ transplants

6 kidney & pancreas

2 kidney & liver

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