Chapter 2

OVERVIEW OF ORGAN DONATION ACTIVITY IN AUSTRALIA AND AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

ANZOD ANNUAL REPORT 2026

ANZ OD
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND ORGAN DONATION REGISTRY

CONTENTS

Summary and Highlights	3
Actual Deceased Organ Donors & Transplant Recipients	4
Actual Deceased Organ Donors	6
Actual Deceased Organ Donors per 10,000 Deaths	8
Deceased Organ Donor Transplant Activity	10
Organs Transplanted by Organ Type	11
Recipients by Organ Type	12

SUGGESTED CITATION

H Opdam, F Kholmurodova, K Marshall, C Davies, L Datson, M McDonald, E Cavazzoni, J Ritchie, A Dinant, C Milton, G Irish. 30th Report. Chapter 2: Overview of Organ Donation Activity in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Registry, Adelaide, Australia. 2026. Available at: https://anzorrg.org.au/reports/anzod-registry-annual-report-2026

PUBLICATION NOTES

Publications based upon ANZOD Registry information reported here or supplied upon request must include the citation as noted above and the following notice:

> *The data reported here have been supplied by the Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Registry. The interpretation and reporting of these data are the responsibility of the Authors and in no way should be seen as an official policy or interpretation of the Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Registry.*

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS

This chapter provides an overview of deceased organ donation and transplantation activity in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand over time, with a focus on 2025 outcomes in the context of historical trends.

In 2025, Australia recorded 557 actual deceased organ donors (20.2 per million population [pmp]) and 1,438 transplant recipients (52.1 pmp). This represents a continuation of recovery and growth following the COVID-19 period, with donation activity increasing from 2024 and approaching levels observed prior to 2020.

Long-term Growth with Expected Year-to-Year Variation

Deceased organ donation and transplantation activity across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand has increased over time, with temporary reductions during the COVID-19 period and subsequent recovery. Year-to-year variation is expected, particularly in smaller donor populations.

Aotearoa New Zealand recorded 60 actual deceased organ donors (11.3 pmp) and 174 transplant recipients (32.7 pmp) in 2025. As seen across the time series, donation activity in smaller populations demonstrates year-to-year variability, with 2025 outcomes remaining within the range observed over the past decade.

Longitudinal data from 2006 to 2025 show an overall upward trend in donation and transplantation activity in both countries, with a temporary reduction during the COVID-19 period (2020–2022) followed by recovery in subsequent years.

When measured against total deaths, donation activity provides additional context on system performance relative to the potential donor pool. In Australia, the rate of actual donors per 10,000 deaths has remained relatively stable in recent years following earlier growth, while Aotearoa New Zealand has demonstrated variability within a narrower range.

Across both countries, kidney and liver transplants continue to account for the majority of transplant activity, with thoracic and pancreas transplants contributing smaller but consistent volumes. Multi-organ transplantation remains an established component of clinical practice.

Overall, standardised measures such as pmp rates and donors per 10,000 deaths enable consistent comparison over time and between jurisdictions, supporting interpretation of donation activity, transplant outcomes, and system performance.

ACTUAL DECEASED ORGAN DONORS AND TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

Actual deceased organ donors and transplant recipients from 2006 to 2025 are shown as total numbers and rate per million population for Australia (Figures 2.1.1 and 2.1.2) and New Zealand (Figures 2.2.1 and 2.2.2). The shaded area indicates the COVID-19 pandemic (2020–2022).

Figure 2.1.1
Total Number of Actual Deceased Organ Donors and Recipients, Australia 2006–2025

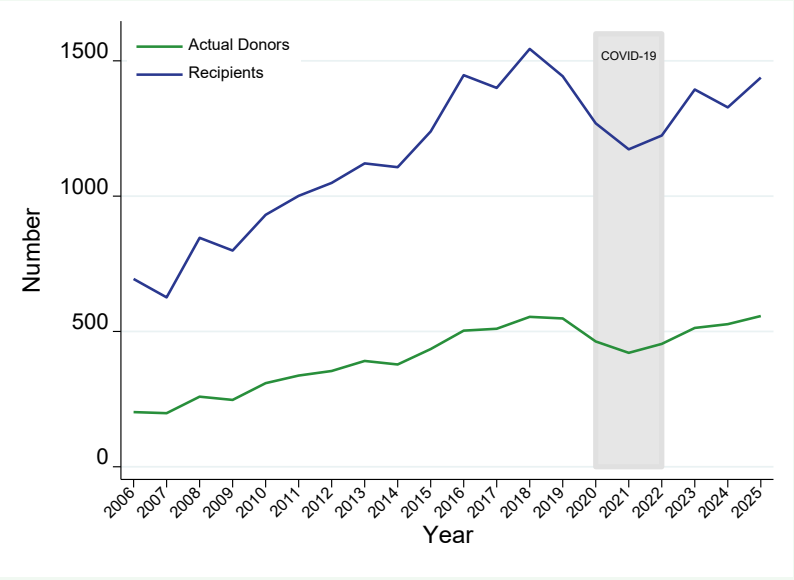


Figure 2.1.2
Total Number of Actual Deceased Organ Donors and Recipients pmp, Australia 2006–2025

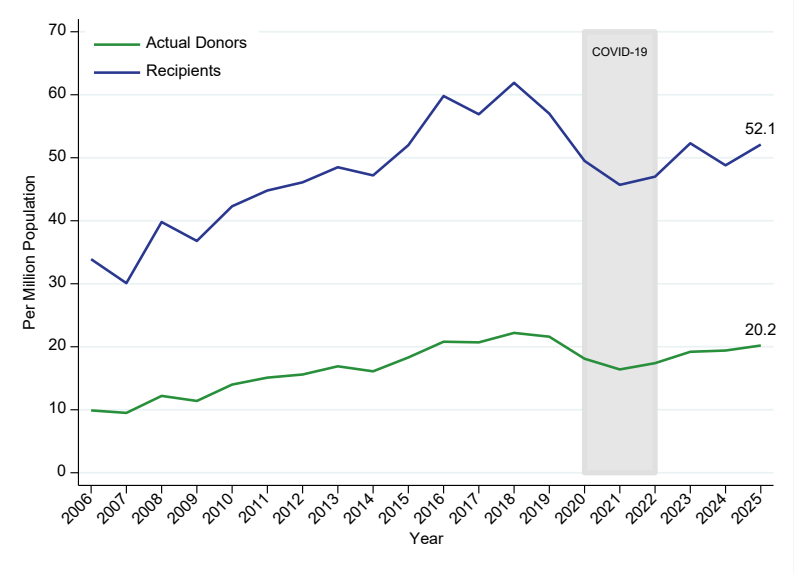


Figure 2.2.1

Total Number of Actual Deceased Organ Donors and Recipients, New Zealand 2006–2025

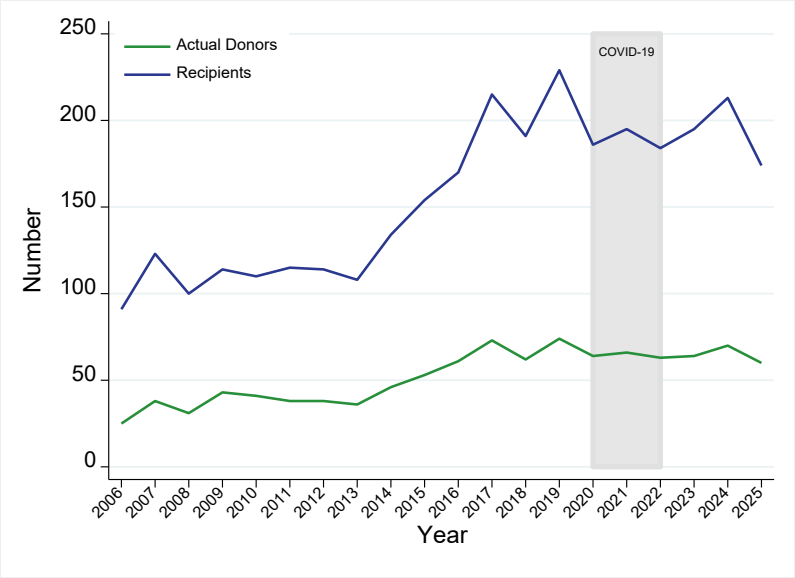
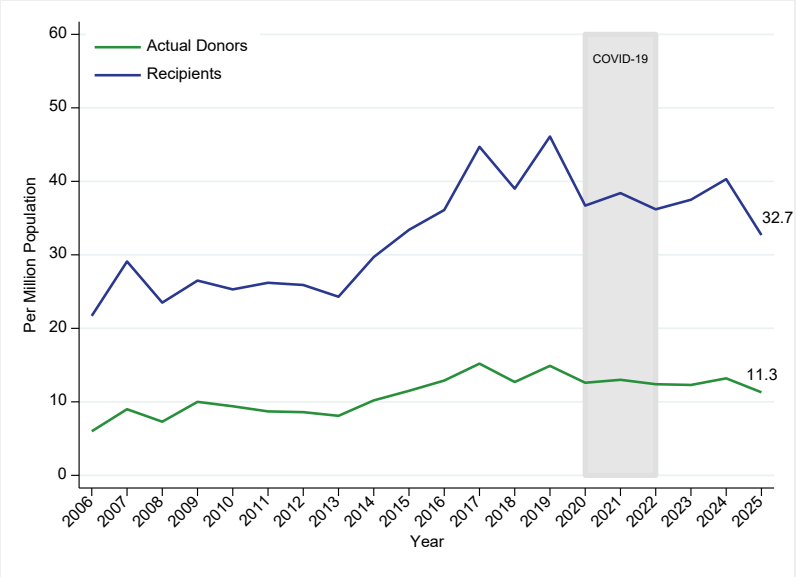


Figure 2.2.2

Total Number of Actual Deceased Organ Donors and Recipients pmp, New Zealand 2006–2025



ACTUAL DECEASED ORGAN DONORS

Table 2.1 shows the number of actual deceased organ donors by jurisdiction with rates per million population (pmp) in brackets. Figure 2.3 shows the number of actual organ donors by Australian states and territories.

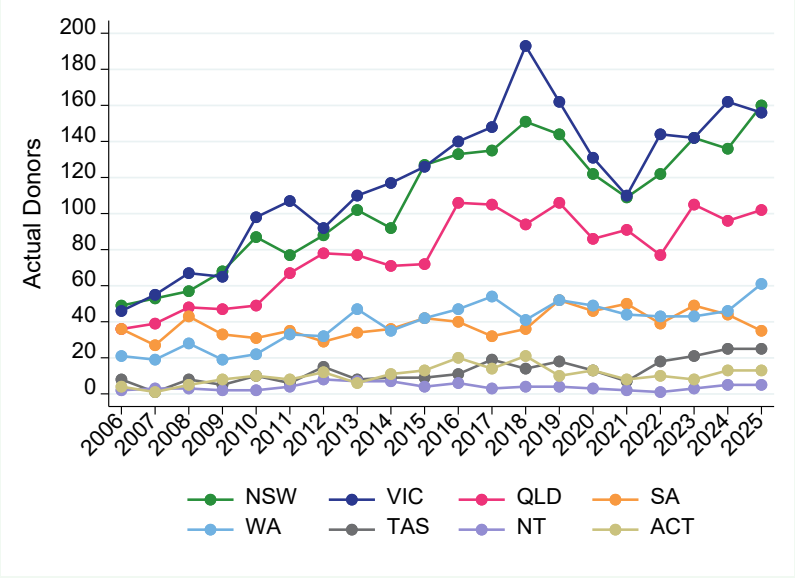
Table 2.1
Number of Actual Deceased Organ Donors by Jurisdiction (Per Million Population), 2006–2025

Year	NSW*	VIC**	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT*	AUS	NZ
2006	49 (7.5)	46 (9.1)	36 (9.0)	36 (23.2)	21 (10.2)	8 (16.3)	2 (9.6)	4 (7.4)	202 (9.9)	25 (6.0)
2007	53 (8.0)	55 (10.7)	39 (9.5)	27 (17.2)	19 (9.0)	1 (2.0)	3 (14.0)	1 (1.8)	198 (9.5)	38 (9.0)
2008	57 (8.5)	67 (12.7)	48 (11.4)	43 (27.1)	28 (12.9)	8 (16.0)	3 (13.6)	5 (9.0)	259 (12.2)	31 (7.3)
2009	68 (9.9)	65 (12.1)	47 (10.9)	33 (20.5)	19 (8.5)	5 (9.9)	2 (8.8)	8 (14.1)	247 (11.4)	43 (10.0)
2010	87 (12.6)	98 (17.9)	49 (11.1)	31 (19.0)	22 (9.6)	10 (19.7)	2 (8.7)	10 (17.4)	309 (14.0)	41 (9.4)
2011	77 (11.0)	107 (19.3)	67 (15.0)	35 (21.3)	33 (14.0)	6 (11.7)	4 (17.3)	8 (13.7)	337 (15.1)	38 (8.7)
2012	88 (12.4)	92 (16.3)	78 (17.1)	29 (17.5)	32 (13.2)	15 (29.3)	8 (33.9)	12 (20.2)	354 (15.6)	38 (8.6)
2013	102 (14.2)	110 (19.1)	77 (16.5)	34 (20.3)	47 (18.9)	8 (15.6)	7 (29.0)	6 (10.0)	391 (16.9)	36 (8.1)
2014	92 (12.6)	117 (19.8)	71 (15.0)	36 (21.3)	35 (13.9)	9 (17.5)	7 (28.8)	11 (18.1)	378 (16.1)	46 (10.2)
2015	127 (17.2)	126 (20.9)	72 (15.1)	42 (24.7)	42 (16.5)	9 (17.5)	4 (16.3)	13 (21.0)	435 (18.3)	53 (11.5)
2016	133 (17.7)	140 (22.7)	106 (21.9)	40 (23.4)	47 (18.4)	11 (21.3)	6 (24.4)	20 (31.9)	503 (20.8)	61 (12.9)
2017	135 (17.7)	148 (23.5)	105 (21.3)	32 (18.5)	54 (20.9)	19 (36.1)	3 (12.1)	14 (21.8)	510 (20.7)	73 (15.2)
2018	151 (19.5)	193 (30.0)	94 (18.8)	36 (20.6)	41 (15.7)	14 (26.1)	4 (16.2)	21 (32.0)	554 (22.2)	62 (12.7)
2019	144 (18.4)	162 (24.8)	106 (20.8)	52 (29.4)	52 (19.6)	18 (32.9)	4 (16.2)	10 (15.0)	548 (21.6)	74 (14.9)
2020	122 (15.5)	131 (19.8)	86 (16.6)	46 (25.7)	49 (18.1)	13 (23.3)	3 (12.1)	13 (19.1)	463 (18.1)	64 (12.6)
2021	109 (13.9)	110 (16.8)	91 (17.4)	50 (27.7)	44 (16.0)	7 (12.3)	2 (8.1)	8 (11.6)	421 (16.4)	66 (13.0)
2022	122 (15.4)	144 (21.8)	77 (14.5)	39 (21.4)	43 (15.4)	18 (31.5)	1 (4.0)	10 (14.3)	454 (17.4)	63 (12.4)
2023	142 (17.5)	142 (20.9)	105 (19.3)	49 (26.4)	43 (14.9)	21 (36.6)	3 (11.7)	8 (11.2)	513 (19.2)	64 (12.3)
2024	136 (16.5)	162 (23.3)	96 (17.2)	44 (23.4)	46 (15.4)	25 (43.5)	5 (19.2)	13 (17.9)	527 (19.4)	70 (13.2)
2025	**160 (19.2)**	**156 (22.1)**	**102 (18.0)**	**35 (18.4)**	**61 (20.0)**	**25 (43.4)**	**5 (18.9)**	**13 (17.7)**	**557 (20.2)**	**60 (11.3)**

* NSW population excludes residents of the NSW Southern Area Health Service (included in ACT population). Population Data - June 2025.
** Donors in Albury are included in Victoria which provides organ donation services for Albury Wodonga Health.

Figure 2.3

Number of Actual Deceased Donors by Australian States and Territories, 2006-2025



ACTUAL DECEASED ORGAN DONORS PER 10,000 DEATHS

Overall death rates in Australia have declined across most age groups in recent years. Relating the number of actual deceased organ donors to the number of deaths provides an additional measure of donation activity that is more relevant to the potential donor pool. Rates for Australia and New Zealand are shown in Figure 2.4 and Table 2.2. Australian and New Zealand data on deaths in 2024 was the latest release at the time of this publication.

Figure 2.4
Number of Actual Deceased Donors Per 10,000 deaths, Australia and New Zealand, 2005-2024

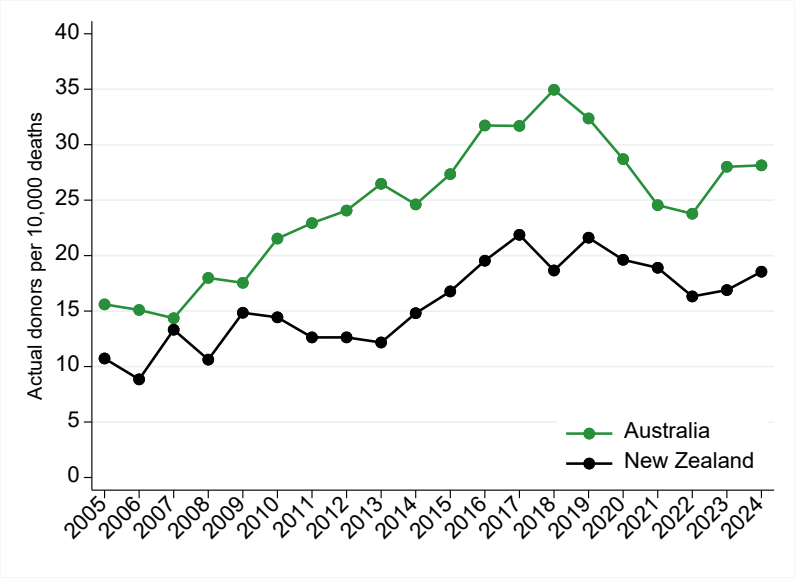


Table 2.2

Actual Deceased Donors per 10,000 Deaths, 2005-2024

Year	Australia*	New Zealand**
2005	15.6	10.7
2006	15.1	8.8
2007	14.4	13.3
2008	18.0	10.6
2009	17.5	14.9
2010	21.5	14.4
2011	22.9	12.6
2012	24.1	12.6
2013	26.5	12.2
2014	24.6	14.8
2015	27.3	16.8
2016	31.7	19.5
2017	31.7	21.9
2018	35.0	18.7
2019	32.4	21.6
2020	28.7	19.6
2021	24.6	18.9
2022	23.8	16.3
2023	28.0	16.9
2024	28.1	18.6

*Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics
**Source: Statistics New Zealand

DECEASED ORGAN DONOR TRANSPLANT ACTIVITY

Total actual donors, transplant recipients and organs transplanted as well as transplant recipients by organ type for 2025 are shown by number and rate per million population, pmp (in brackets) for Australia (Table 2.3) and New Zealand (Table 2.4).

Table 2.3
Australia Overview of Deceased Organ Donor Transplant Activity, 2025*

Population (million)	27.6
Actual Deceased Organ Donors	557 (20.2)
Kidney Transplant Recipients	865 (31.3)
Liver Transplant Recipients	303 (11.0)
Heart Transplant Recipients	125 (4.5)
Lung Transplant Recipients	160 (5.8)
Pancreas Transplant Recipients	46 (1.7)
Intestine Transplant Recipients	3 (0.1)
Total Number of Transplanted Recipients**	1438 (52.1)
Total Number of Organs Transplanted***	1625 (58.8)

*By donor country, recipients/organs from Australian donors.
**The total number of recipients includes all combinations of multi-organ transplants as a single count of transplantation.
***The total number of transplanted organs differs from the total number of transplant recipients as each organ is counted as a single organ transplant.

Table 2.4
New Zealand Overview of Deceased Organ Donor Transplant Activity, 2025*

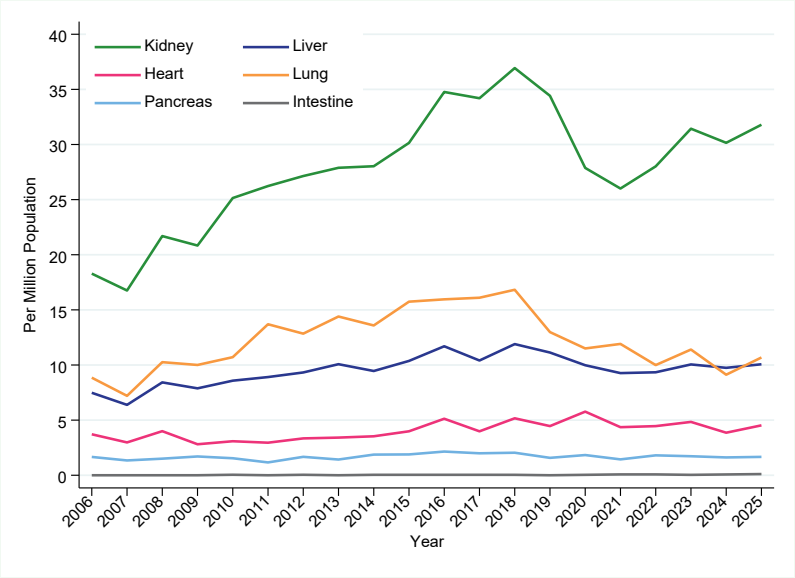
Population (million)	5.3
Actual Deceased Organ Donors	60 (11.3)
Kidney Transplant Recipients	96 (18.0)
Liver Transplant Recipients	44 (8.3)
Heart Transplant Recipients	12 (2.3)
Lung Transplant Recipients	24 (4.5)
Pancreas Transplant Recipients	6 (1.1)
Total Number of Transplanted Recipients**	174 (32.7)
Total Number of Organs Transplanted***	205 (38.5)

*By donor country, recipients/organs from New Zealand donors.
**The total number of recipients includes all combinations of multi-organ transplants as a single count of transplantation.
***The total number of transplanted organs differs from the total number of transplant recipients as each organ is counted as a single organ transplant.

ORGANS TRANSPLANTED BY ORGAN TYPE

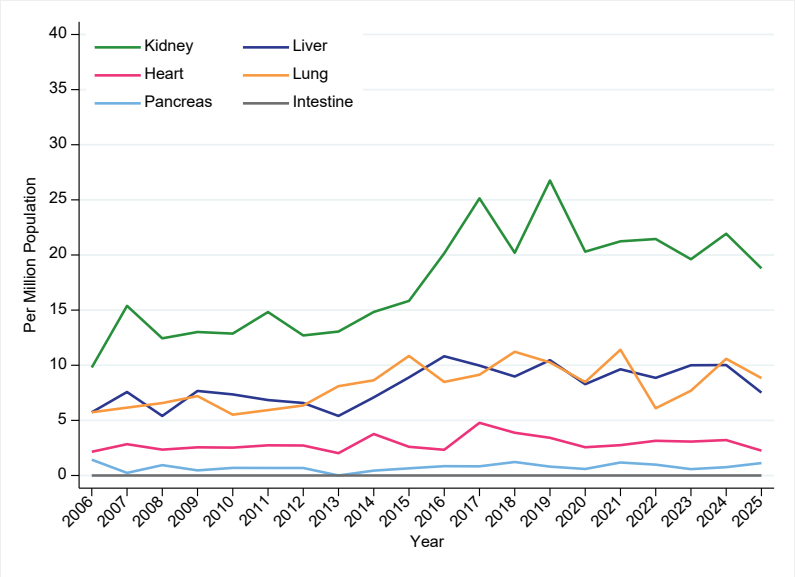
Organs transplanted by organ type per million population (pmp) are shown from 2006 to 2025 for Australia (Figure 2.5.1) and New Zealand (Figure 2.5.2).

Figure 2.5.1
Organs Transplanted by Organ Type* 2006–2025 Per Million Population, Australia



*Multi-organ transplants are included with each organ type and counted individually.

Figure 2.5.2
Organs Transplanted by Organ Type* 2006–2025 Per Million Population, New Zealand

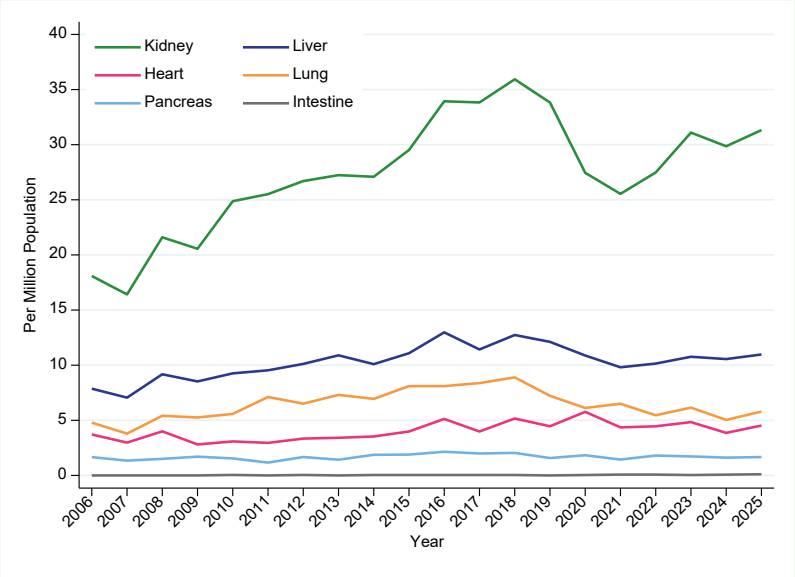


*Multi-organ transplants are included with each organ type and counted individually.

RECIPIENTS BY ORGAN TYPE

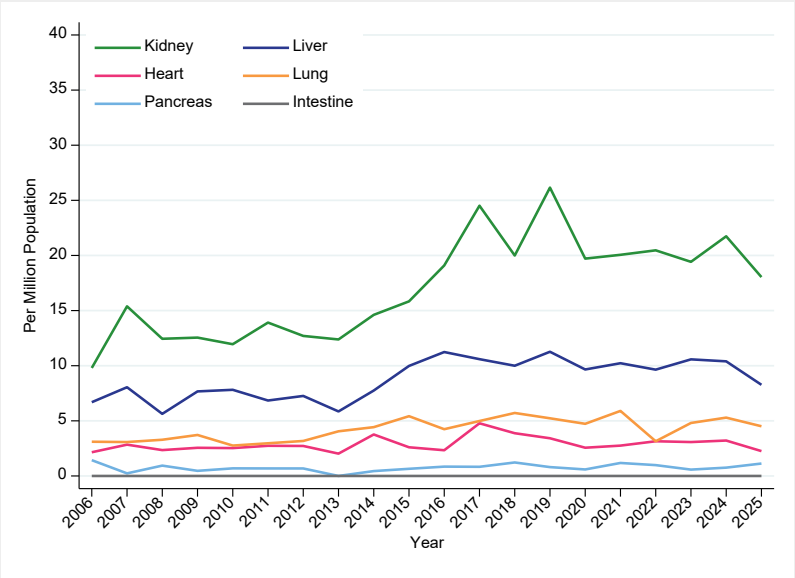
Organs transplant recipients by organ type per million population (pmp) are shown from 2006 to 2025 for Australia (Figure 2.6.1) and New Zealand (Figure 2.6.2).

Figure 2.6.1
Organ Recipients by Organ Type* 2006–2025 Per Million Population, Australia



*Multi-organ transplants are included with each organ type and counted individually.

Figure 2.6.2
Organ Recipients by Organ Type* 2006–2025 Per Million Population, New Zealand



*Multi-organ transplants are included with each organ type and counted individually.

ANZ
OD
AUSTRALIA &
NEW ZEALAND
ORGAN DONATION
REGISTRY