

Australian and New Zealand Paired Kidney Exchange Program [ANZKX]

What you need to know

Information on ANZKX

The Australian and New Zealand Paired Kidney Exchange (ANZKX) program is a shared live kidney donor exchange between Australia and New Zealand.

The aim of the program is to increase the number of living donor transplants by matching pairs who are matched with each other to other pairs in the same situation.

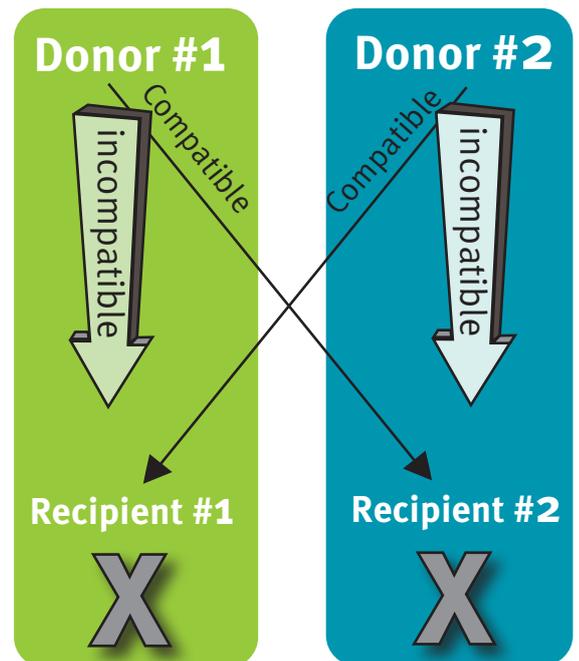
Paired kidney exchange may happen when a living donor is willing to donate to a recipient, usually a partner, relative or close friend, but cannot, due to a different blood group or unsuitable tissue match. It is also possible for live donor-recipient pairs to enter into the program, to try to achieve a better tissue match.

Please talk to your hospital team to discuss your options. If you are already on the deceased donor list you can also be enrolled in the ANZKX program.

To take part in the program

In order to take part, it's important that:

- You are eligible for a kidney transplant and are under the care of a Kidney Transplant Service in Australia or New Zealand
- You have a living donor who is willing, but unable to donate to you because of a different blood group or unsuitable tissue match
- Your living donor agrees to take part in the ANZKX program and donate their kidney to someone else in exchange of you receiving a kidney from someone else
- You are a non-directed kidney donor, which means you do not have a recipient entering the program with you.



Registration

Your transplant team will tell you if you are suitable for the program. You and your willing donor will:

- Receive an explanation of the ANZKX program by a transplant professional
- Be asked to sign an Agreement to Participate form. This form states that you understand the program and agree to take part
- Your transplant coordinator will register you into the program.

Matching

The ANZKX database continuously searches for possible pairings . Your transplant team will tell you if you have been matched in a chain. At this stage, it will be necessary to have another blood test to confirm your suitability. Once this is completed, each pair will meet with their own transplant team to discuss the outcome and decide if it is possible to go ahead. If the donor and recipient pair agrees to go ahead with the exchange, a suitable date for transplant will be arranged and each donor and recipient pair will meet with their own transplant team to finalise details and sign consent forms for surgery.

Your chances of finding a suitable match increases with the number of people registered with ANZKX. If a recipient has more than one donor who is willing to register with ANZKX, this may improve their chances of finding a match, however, only the donor with the best match will donate their kidney. You can remain in the program until a suitable match is found, sometimes this can take several years.

Important information

It is important to understand that there is no guarantee, even if you are identified for a possible exchange, that the transplant will go ahead on the agreed day, especially if the chain involves several pairs .

Every effort is made for the matched donor and recipient pairs to have their surgery on the same day and at the same time. However, it is becoming more accepted that the donor surgery happens on a different day and sometimes weeks later. The reason that this can happen is because the chain is started by a donor who doesn't have a recipient entering the program.

Confidentiality

Privacy and confidentiality for each donor and recipient pair is essential and you will not be given any information about who you are matched with.

Where can I get more information?

For more information and/or questions about the program please contact the Queensland Kidney Transplant Service Coordinators on:

Phone: (07) 3176 7769

Phone: (07) 3176 7397

Email: QKTSCoordinators@health.qld.gov.au

