



MEDIA RELEASE

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2011 ACT CHIEF MINISTER'S AWARDS FOR ORGAN DONATION AWARENESS RECIPIENTS

ACT Chief Minister Jon Stanhope has today recognised six Canberrans for their outstanding contribution to organ and tissue donation awareness, in a special ceremony at the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Supported by Gift of Life, the **ACT Chief Minister's Awards for Organ Donation Awareness** recognise and thank those from the medical, community and media sectors who devote their time and energy to promoting organ and tissue donation throughout the year.

This year's recipients included local ABC Radio personality Genevieve Jacobs, new Member for Canberra Gai Brodtmann, and well-known health advocate Anne Cahill-Lambert.

Genevieve Jacobs received the Angus Fairbairn-Cody Award for Media Support for her work in generating comment and discussion about organ donation issues in Canberra's local media. This award is named after young organ donor Angus Fairbairn-Cody, who died in 2008 at the age of just 14.

Gai Brodtmann was honoured with the Annette Taylor Award for Community Service, in recognition of her work over many years as both a board member of Gift of Life and an advocate of organ and tissue donation in many local forums. Her award is named for Canberra's first organ donor, who gave the gift of life more than three decades ago in 1975.

Two people who are very familiar to local organ donor families and transplant recipients were also recognised at the awards, with Steve Williams from Transplant Australia ACT receiving the Matthew Reynolds Award for Community Service, and Karen Oliver receiving the Ben Wiseman Award for Healthcare. Karen has served as an organ donor coordinator at Canberra Hospital for a number of years, while Steve works tirelessly with transplant recipients and their families to support them in their journey back to health.

The Belconnen chapter of the Canberra Lions Club was also recognised with the Jenny Deck Award for Community Support, for their ongoing participation in major organ donation awareness events such as Wednesday's DonateLife Walk.

For the first time, the Chief Minister presented a Special Award for Outstanding Contribution, which was awarded to community health advocate and former Gift of Life President Anne Cahill Lambert.

Despite awaiting a lung transplant and requiring constant oxygen, Anne has been an extremely visible and active advocate for organ donation issues at both the local and national levels for a number of years. In particular, today's special award recognises the central role she has played in placing organ and tissue donation at the centre of the national health policy agenda.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Gift of Life President David O'Leary thanked all of the recipients for their hard work and contribution to organ and tissue donation awareness, and also paid tribute to those who promote this important issue within their families, communities and networks.

"Organ donation is something that we all need to think and talk about, as Australia continues to have some of the lowest donation rates in the world despite our world-class health and transplantation services," Mr O'Leary said.

"Community advocates such as those we're recognising today play an extremely important role in getting this conversation going. But each and every one of us can also play a role by talking with family and friends, particularly during this week—DonateLife Week."

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