

## **Citations for 2011 Chief Minister's Awards for Organ Donation Awareness**

### **Annette Taylor Award for Community Service**

The first award is the Annette Taylor Award for Community Service. As many of you would know, Annette Taylor was the ACT's first organ donor in 1975. Annette and her mother Marjorie discussed organ donation in the week before she died. After Annette's death, Marjorie was committed to ensure that her wishes were fulfilled and she was able to give new life to others. Their story highlights the importance of talking about organ donation with your loved ones and being clear about each other's wishes.

This year's Annette Taylor Award for Community Service goes to Gai Brodtmann, MHR. Gai, Brodtmann as a former Board member of Gift of Life has been at the centre in promoting the cause of organ and tissue donation in our region. She played a pivotal role within the organization. Through her direction and input to the Board of Gift of Life and her advocacy for organ donation with community leaders and government ministers, she has contributed substantially to public awareness and public policy changes to organ and tissue donation. Gai is a person who has social justice values as a core of her being. She has demonstrated this through community activity since she was a teenager. And it is with this strong sense of support for the less fortunate she now takes into federal parliament as the Member for Canberra. Gai showed her on-going commitment to organ donation in her new role as a federal parliamentarian. As an indication of the strength of her commitment, she raised organ and tissue donation as the very first Matter of Public Importance in the new federal parliament. Gai is a most worthy winner of the Annette Taylor Award for Community Service.

### **Ben Wiseman Award for Healthcare**

Our next award is the Ben Wiseman Award for Healthcare. Ben suffered from epilepsy, and was just 23 years old when he died after experiencing a seizure in September 2001. Ben's parents, Marguerite and Laurie, had discussed organ donation with him in the context of them becoming donors and they knew that he supported this. So when they were approached about donating his organs they were able to do so with no hesitation about his wishes.

The recipient of this year's Ben Wiseman Award for Healthcare is Karen Oliver. Karen had, until recently, been an Organ Donor Coordinator at the Canberra Hospital. In that role, Karen was the person with whom prospective donor families had most contact while they made the vital decision to offer their loved one's organs to save the lives of others.

Karen, as comforter, counselor, advisor and steady supporting hand helped donor families through this difficult time. The high donation rate by Canberrans over recent years is a

testament to her caring approach and her ability to build a rapport with grieving families such that others now have a new start in life.

We thank you for your contribution Karen.

### **Jenny Deck Award for Community Support**

Our next award is the Jenny Deck Award for Community Support. Jenny Deck was a fun loving and creative young woman. She was planning on studying graphic design so that she could continue to live a creative life, but in October 1986 a drunk driver ended that dream. Jenny became an organ donor, and her gift to others helps her family make sense of this tragedy.

This year's Jenny Deck Award for Community Support goes to the Lions Club of Canberra, Belconnen. The President of the Lions Club of Belconnen, Judy Farr., will accept the award on behalf of the team.

That great bunch of men and women of the Lions Club of Canberra, Belconnen have been keen supporters of organ and tissue donation for quite some time. Since we first started the Organised Walk around the lake 5 years ago, the men of the Lions Club, lead by Garry Jones have been there to provide a hearty breakfast after the walk. They were there again last Wednesday when they served up 60 dozen eggs and 35 kilos of bacon to a hungry bunch of walkers. We are sure that that breakfast set those walkers off to a very productive day back at work and at school.

### **Matthew Reynolds Award for Community Service**

The next award is the Matthew Reynolds Award for Community Service, named after a cheerful, easygoing family man who died suddenly from a brain aneurysm aged just 38. Matthew's wife Jenny has said that knowing she was fulfilling Matthew's own wish to be an organ donor made her decision to donate his organs so much easier. It was an enormous comfort for Jenny and their children knowing that seven people had the chance for continued life thanks to Matthew.

The 2011 recipient of the Matthew Reynolds Award for Community Service is Steve Williams of Transplant Australia (ACT).

Steve, a lung transplant recipient, twice over, was prominent in organising the 2010 Transplant Games held here in Canberra last year. It is in large part due to the hard and dedicated work of Steve that the Transplant Games were a great success. The Games brought many thousands of transplantees and their families to their national capital for a week of sporting activity and competition. In doing so, the Transplant Games were a showpiece to the Australian community of the value of a transplantation program. The Games showed how transplant recipients,

thanks to the generosity of a donor and their family, can resume a healthy, vigorous and productive life.

This Award recognizes that through Steve's efforts many transplant recipients were able to celebrate their new life in the great Australian endeavour – sport. And through it show to other Australians the value of saving a life through being a donor.

### **Angus Fairbairn-Cody Award for Media Support**

Our final award is named after Angus Fairbairn-Cody. Angus was a vibrant, active 14-year-old when he died of complications relating to his ADHD in 2008. His mother tells us that he was an 'envelope pusher', giving 100% intensity to everything. Angus and his family had discussed organ donation and agreed that it was the right thing to do. We remember Angus and the gift that he gave through the Angus Fairbairn-Cody Award for Healthcare.

The 2011 The Angus Fairbairn-Cody Award for Media Support goes to Genevieve Jacobs of ABC 666.

Genevieve Jacobs, as a presenter with ABC 666 radio, has helped raise the community's awareness of organ and tissue donation. By giving a voice to the stories of donor families, recipients and those patients desperately awaiting a life-saving transplant, Genevieve has helped foster a significant change in community attitudes to organ and tissue donation. As a radio presenter with a dedicated and totally devoted audience this remarkable and knowledgeable woman has helped spread the word on the importance of organ and tissue donation. Many Canberrans are now aware of the significance of being a donor through her interviews.

### **Special Award for Outstanding Contribution**

Finally, a Special Award for a very special person. This Special Award for Outstanding Contribution goes to a person who has brought organ and tissue donation to the forefront in Canberra and across Australia over a number of years.

You all know of this person. You know of her strength of character, her organizational skill, her persistence and drive. And you know of her good humour in the face of great adversity.

The 2011 Special Award for Outstanding Contribution goes to Ms Anne Cahill Lambert.

Anne Cahill Lambert was the President of Gift of Life Inc for 5 years, relinquishing this position in the last year. During her tenure she has been instrumental in lifting the profile of organ and tissue donation across our region. The many high profile events that we have had in Canberra over the past week for organ donation were Anne's initiatives. These events introduced 5 years

ago are now the focus of national attention and the highlights of the DonateLife Week here and nationally. In the last year, Anne has also been able to influence the national approach further through her appointed role on the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Advisory Council and as a member of the National Health and Medical Research Council

Anne has a vision of a society in which there is a deep culture of organ and tissue donation: and through her drive, innovation and charisma this message has spread to the point where Australia had a record number of organ donations last year. Perhaps she has not been solely responsible for this. Nonetheless, the fact that she has been so successful in lifting the profile of organ and tissue donation in the Canberra region and nationally while suffering a debilitating disease makes this contribution even more remarkable.

Anne's previous contribution to Australia as the CEO of Women's Hospitals Australasia was recognized in 2005 when she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for 'service to health care administration, particularly through contributions to improve hospital services for women and children'.

It is our delight to grant this special recognition to a true champion and an ACT treasure, Anne Cahill Lambert.