



MEDIA RELEASE MONDAY 19th February

Walk, Talk and Take the Next Step Towards Registering to be an Organ and Tissue Donor

www.giftoflife.asn.au

Canberrans are being encouraged to support this year's *Gift of Life Walk* by participating in, or organising, an event that raises much-needed awareness for organ and tissue donation.

More than 1,800 Australians are currently on the waiting list for a life-saving transplant and, while research shows 4 in 5 Aussies support organ and tissue donation, only 36% of us have registered on the Australian Organ Donor Register.

The *Gift of Life Walk* is an important reminder for all Australians, to register and tell your family that you want to be an organ and tissue donor.

Kicking off the year, the main *Gift of Life Walk* is on the 20th February 2024 at Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra. The community Walk is a fun and active way to start the day and highlight the importance of registering to be a donor.

ACT Minister Emma Davidson, Assistant Minister Families and Community Services and Minister responsible for organ and tissue donation in the ACT will be joining the Walk. “quote - ?

Get a team together with your family, friends and colleagues. There will be free merchandise including t-shirts, hats, water bottles and dog bandanas to give away. Canberra United players are also supporting the *Gift of Life Walk* and will be there to sign posters.

Scott Clouder, Gift of Life Board member, is encouraging Australians in regional areas to go onto our website www.giftoflife.asn.au to see if there is a walk organised near them. They are also encouraged to get a group together to host their own walks, raise awareness, and start conversations about organ and tissue donation registration. Gift of Life will support regional walks with free merchandise and other resources.

Catherine Scott, President of Gift of Life Inc. commented that, “As someone who has the gift of sight thanks to the generous gift of 6 donors, I know firsthand how incredibly important it is to have a conversation with your loved ones about joining the donor register.”

The Gift of Life Walk is supported by the Organ and Tissue Authority, ACT Health, Icon Water and Region Media. For more information about the *Gift of Life Walk*, how to become a donor, to sign up to walk anywhere in Australia and order free merchandise, visit www.giftoflife.asn.au.

MEDIA CONTACTS: For more information, please contact Catherine Scott on 0416 117 291 / contact@giftoflife.asn.au