

Over 1100 Rotary Clubs across Australia are urging families to ‘have the chat’ about organ and tissue donation with their loved ones and register their donation decisions during DonateLife Week.

Rotary’s participation in DonateLife Week 2015 was prompted by the story of Jack Wilson, the grandson of one of the 21 Rotary District Governors in Australia. Jack was born with nephrotic syndrome, a congenital kidney disease which resulted in lengthy periods of hospitalisation.

Jack had to return to hospital initially five days per week for four hourly sessions of protein infusion, then moving onto 10 hours home dialysis every night. From three days after his birth in mid 2013 Jack had a tube protruding from his body – no bath, no beach, no pool - until finally at the age of 21 months, Jack’s life was transformed with the gift of a kidney transplant.

“For Jack, a new kidney has meant a return to normal eating, boundless energy and no more lines (with their risk of infection). It’s such an incredible gift. We know that Jack will need more kidney transplants throughout his life, but for now we’re excited and hopeful for his future” says his mother Tammy Wilson.

Professor Jonathan Craig from Westmead Children’s Hospital Sydney said, “Australia is a world leader in organ and tissue transplants. But we depend entirely on the compassion of ordinary Australians who make a decision which enables us to change lives.”

..... the President of the Rotary Club of.....said “As an organ and tissue donor, you could transform the lives of 10 or more people. It’s important to go onto the internet and register your donation decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register and, importantly, that you share your decision with those closest to you. Registered organ donors are truly a gift to the world.”

“To optimise every potential organ and tissue donor, we each need to have the chat with our family members so that we know each other’s donation decision. Having the chat can make a life-saving difference to people waiting for a transplant. It can be the difference between seeing and being blind, mobility and never walking again,”said.

In Australia, the family will always be asked to confirm the donation decision of their loved one before donation for transplantation can proceed.

“Families that have discussed and know each other’s donation decisions are much more likely to support donation proceeding. This is a conversation that could one day save lives,” said

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DonateLife Week is Australia’s national awareness week to promote organ and tissue donation and is led by the Organ and Tissue Authority.

For more information, visit www.donatelife.gov.au or the Rotary Club of.....
at..... phone.....For information on Jack ring Maurie Stack 0427 668 821.