

# Kidney Exchange Program

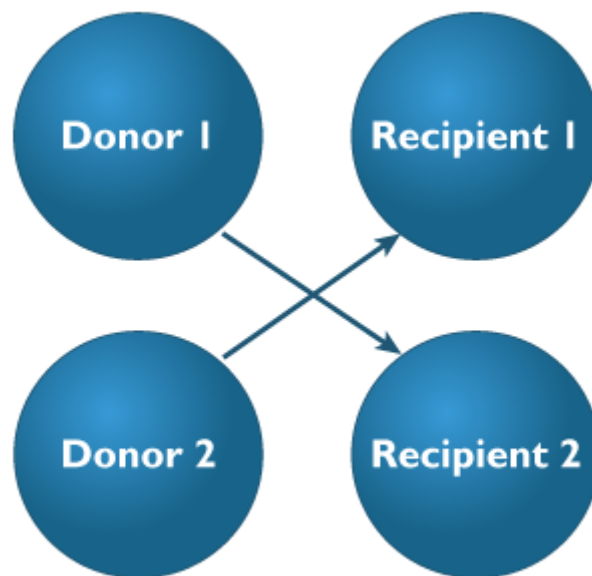
A kidney transplant is usually the best treatment for people with end stage kidney disease. However waiting times for a deceased donor kidney transplant are very long. Live kidney donation has therefore become one of the treatments of choice.

Unfortunately some donor/recipient (D/R) pairs cannot proceed because of

- i. a positive crossmatch caused by anti HLA (tissue) antibodies
- ii. incompatible blood groups

The kidney exchange program has been designed to provide D/R pairs who are not compatible with each other, an opportunity to exchange a kidney with another D/R pair who are also not compatible with each other.

Here's an example of how this might work:



## Joining the Kidney Exchange Program

In 2019, the NZ exchange program joined with the Australian program to become the Australia and New Zealand Kidney Exchange Program (ANZKX).

More information about the program can be found on the Donate Life website

<https://www.donatelife.gov.au/for-healthcare-workers/ANZKX/information-patients-anzkx-program>

To enter this program, both the donor and recipient need to sign a consent form to enable sharing of information.

Both the donor and the recipient will need to be assessed and accepted as a suitable donor and recipient by one or more transplant teams.

This means that:

- The recipient will have been assessed as having a good chance of a successful transplant.
- The donor will have been assessed as having adequate kidney function.

Every time a new pair are entered into the program a check is performed to see if there are any new matches/exchanges possible.

The next step will be to perform a crossmatch between the matched pairs to check that it is safe to continue with the transplants.

### **How the transplants will be performed**

The Co-ordinators from the kidney exchange program, work closely together to plan the operations to take place as soon as possible once a match has been found.

Wherever possible, your surgery will take place at your local transplant centre.

If a kidney needs to be transported between hospitals, the ANZKX team will arrange this.

### **Other important information**

There is no guarantee that a suitable DR pair will be found for you to exchange kidneys with.

The identity of the D/R pair you are exchanging kidneys will remain anonymous.

As with all transplants, success is not guaranteed. However the expected outcomes will be the same as other live donor kidney transplants - 97% of live donor transplants to be working at the end of the first year.

Kidney exchanges can be difficult to arrange and we will do as much as possible to make sure that everything goes as smoothly as possible.