



The University may retain your body for up to eight years, at which time your body will be cremated or buried according to your wishes. Costs of cremation will be carried by the University with your ashes returned to your next of kin or scattered at the University's Memorial Stone (see further on). Costs associated with burial and any additional services will be a private arrangement between your next of kin and the provider of the service. In the case of burial, the University requests potential donors purchase a pre-paid plot of their choice.

It can be extremely beneficial for study purposes to retain some human tissues for more than eight years. You may choose to provide consent for the retention of tissue beyond eight years, and are within your rights to give consent for certain organs only.

Can my family donate my body?

In the absence of a signed and witnessed consent form, the University can accept donations from the most senior next of kin provided they sign a consent form in the presence of witnesses and declare in writing that they are carrying out your wishes.

Memorial Services

Religious and memorial services may be conducted in the normal way, and are the responsibility of the family of the donor.

The University has placed a Memorial Stone at the Lakeside Memorial Park and Crematorium at Kanahooka in recognition of those who have donated their bodies to science. Visitors are welcome to view the memorial within the crematorium's operating hours.

Contact Details

Body Donation Program

Graduate School of Medicine
c/o Department of Biomedical Science
University of Wollongong
NSW 2522

Phone (02) 4221 3881

University of Wollongong



Body Donation Program

Donating your body to medical science





An invaluable contribution

People who donate their bodies for medical and scientific research make an invaluable contribution to the advancement of medical knowledge. It is a unique gift that helps promote health and alleviate suffering in the community, and is greatly appreciated by medical researchers, teachers and students.

The University of Wollongong operates a Body Donation Program on behalf of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences and the Graduate School of Medicine to help us train doctors, nurses, medical scientists and other health professionals.

This brochure provides information about the UOW program for potential donors and their families.

Dignity, respect and anonymity

People donating their bodies to the University of Wollongong are guaranteed that their remains will be treated with dignity, respect and anonymity. Our researchers and students are at all times aware of the special privilege that has been accorded them by the generosity of donors and their families.

How do I donate my body to medical science?

The first step is to contact the UOW Body Donation Program through the contact details on the back of this brochure.

You will then receive information about the program, and a consent form will be mailed to you.

We strongly advise you to discuss your plans with your family and medical advisor, so that they can carry out your wishes in the event of your death.

However, you should be aware that there are certain circumstances and medical conditions which preclude the University from accepting a human body. Final acceptance depends on the condition of the body at the time of death. It is incumbent upon the next of kin and/or attending medical practitioner to ascertain potential suitability for the body before it is transported to the University.

For these and other reasons, such as storage limitations, the University may be unable to accept your body despite having your signed donation consent form. If the University cannot accept the body the next of kin will be notified immediately so that they can make alternative funeral arrangements.

What happens after I die?

When you die, your immediate next of kin or medical staff should notify the Body Donation Program as soon as possible, by calling 02 4221 3881.

If your body is deemed suitable and the donation accepted, the body will be collected and transported either by our designated Funeral Director or that of the family's choice – at no cost to your next of kin. However, the University is unable to pay for transport of a body outside a 100km radius of the University's Wollongong Campus.

Your body will be embalmed to preserve it and keep it in a sterile condition. It will then be kept in cold storage until required for our research and teaching programs.

