




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Australian Transplant Games; Organ Donation

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): It is less than a month to go until the Australian Transplant Games get underway on the Gold Coast. The Palaszczuk government is pleased to sponsor this fantastic event, supporting Transplant Australia with \$400,000 in funding. The Transplant Games are an opportunity to celebrate the ongoing story of organ donation long after the scars have healed. We are expecting around 700 people to take part in this important event, including organ and tissue transplant recipients, those on dialysis, donor families, living donors and supporters. The games will be held on the Gold Coast from 30 September to 6 October this year and you can attend the official launch right here at parliament tomorrow to show your support.

I also want to take this opportunity to encourage all members in the House to promote the importance of organ donation to their communities. In 2017, 105 organ donors in Queensland saved the lives of 297 Australians, with a further 23 lives saved by living kidney donors. While these statistics are fantastic, there is more work to be done to encourage all Queenslanders to have a conversation with their loved ones and officially register to be an organ and tissue donor. Almost 80 per cent of Queenslanders say they would donate their organs, but only 28 per cent have registered their decision. Registering your organ donation decision is absolutely vital. We know that nine out of 10 families consent if their loved one is officially registered. Sadly, that figure drops to four out of 10 families consenting simply because they were not registered and they do not know their loved one's wishes. Registering is quick and easy. Head to donatelife.gov.au. It only takes 60 seconds and all you need is your Medicare card. Every single Queenslanders has the power to make a difference and to save lives through opting in for donation and every member here has that same power by promoting the importance of organ donation in their local communities.