



**Anna Burke MP**  
Federal Member for Chisholm

Level 1, 207 Blackburn Road, Syndal 3149 Ph: (03) 98020566  
Fax: (03) 98020588 | [anna.burke.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:anna.burke.mp@aph.gov.au) | [www.annaburke.com](http://www.annaburke.com)



## MEDIA RELEASE

30 November 2010

### Call for more organ donors

Federal Chisholm MP Anna Burke is encouraging local families to discuss the issue of organ donation to increase potential transplant opportunities and help to save lives.

Ms Burke addressed the issue in Federal Parliament last week, citing the fact that Australia has one of the lowest donation rates in the developed world.

“This is a very important debate and one where the facts need to be explicitly stated,” Ms Burke said.

“Less than one percent of deaths permit the donation of organs and only 50 percent of organ donations from those who have consented actually proceed.

“Around 1700 people in Australia are on organ transplant waiting lists at any one time.

“On average, people on the transplant list must wait between 6 months and 4 years.

“98% of Australians agree that organ and tissue donation has the potential to save and improve lives, yet 40% do not know the donation wishes of their loved ones.

“We need to have discussions with our families about this issue so we can determine the wishes of individuals before it is too late,” she said.

People can register on the Australian Organ Donor Register online at [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) or by contacting 1800 777 203.

**Media Contact:** Joe Fennessy (0417 140 935)