

# *Body donation at*



## INFORMATION ABOUT BODY DONATION AT QUT FOR SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL PURPOSES



The gift of your body could make a real difference  
to medical innovation

# *Introduction...*

**Thank you for taking the time to enquire about the Queensland University of Technology Body Bequest Program. You may be able to make a real difference to medical innovation by donating your body to QUT.**

**The QUT Body Bequest Program is a key component to medical education and training at QUT. It is through the generous gift of their body that members of the public play an important role in the training of health professionals such as surgeons, doctors, nurses and allied health workers. QUT needs your support to continue this essential training and ongoing research.**

A large, light blue decorative flourish with intricate scrollwork and leaf-like patterns, arching across the top of the page. The word "Applying" is written in a dark blue, elegant cursive font, centered within the flourish.

# Applying

The application process is very simple. Included in this information pack are two forms that need to be completed — one by you (the prospective donor) and one by a senior next of kin (a nominated senior spokesperson for the family). We ask that a senior spokesperson for the family be part of the donation process to ensure the family is aware of your wish to donate your body. We encourage you to discuss the body donation process with as many members of your family as possible; thus minimising future misunderstandings.

**Please ensure they are witnessed where applicable.**

**These forms are then returned to:**

**QUT Body Bequest Program**

**GPO Box 2434**

**Brisbane Qld 4001**

A prepaid self-addressed envelope is supplied in the information pack for your convenience.



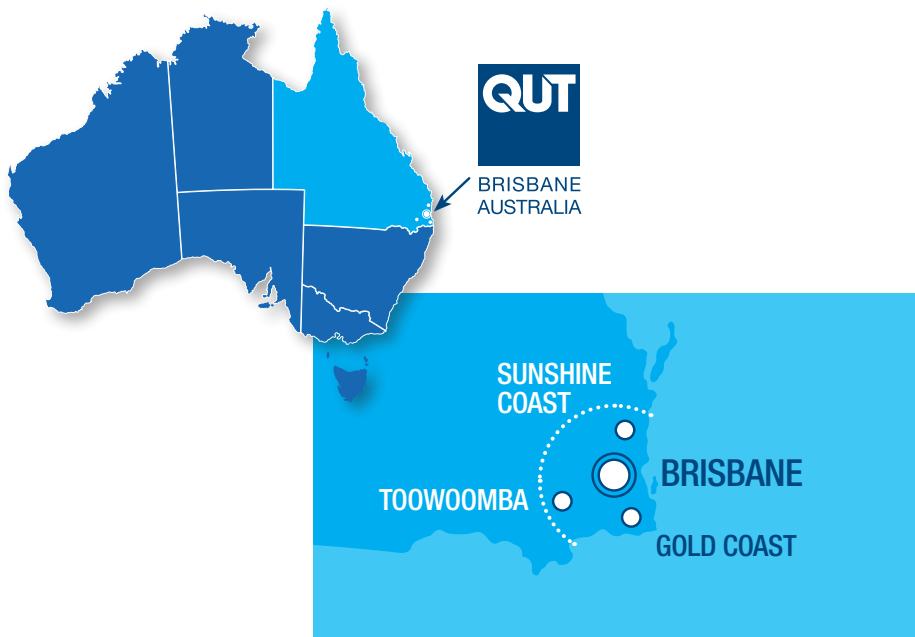
# Acceptance

Unfortunately, registration as a prospective body donor does not mean that that your body will automatically be accepted at the time of your passing, as certain conditions may prevent your donation from being suitable.

**The possible situations that may prevent body acceptance include if:**

- death occurred outside of the acceptance area
- the body has suffered physical trauma
- a very recent operation has been performed on the body
- the body has already been embalmed
- the body is subject to an infectious or notifiable disease
- the body has a history of rapid onset dementia
- the body has had recent exposure to cytotoxic drugs/chemicals (chemotherapy)
- a surgical wound has failed to heal over time
- the body shows signs of deterioration
- the body exceeds certain weight constraints (i.e. less than 50kg or more than 100kg).

QUT reserves the right to contact carers and medical professionals to access donor medical records to determine suitability for donation.



## Acceptance area

The area of acceptance will be limited by the ability for the funeral industry to deliver donors to QUT in a timely manner. It is envisaged that the main acceptance area will be Sunshine Coast, Greater Brisbane and Gold Coast; but may not be confined to these areas. QUT cannot accept donors from New South Wales due to state legislation.

## Non acceptance

If by chance the body is not accepted, the donor's family or next of kin will be contacted and advised that unfortunately QUT is unable to accept the donation. The family and next of kin will then be advised that all funeral/cremation arrangements should be undertaken by themselves and that QUT does not accept any further responsibility for the donor's body. Unfortunately, the body will at no time be stored on QUT premises if acceptance has been declined.

## **Acceptance procedure**

When QUT is contacted regarding the death of a prospective donor, a funeral industry representative will collect and transport the deceased to the QUT Body Bequest Facility. When the donor body arrives at the facility, the body will either be embalmed or frozen until required.

QUT will cover the cost of the transport and ultimate cremation of donated bodies, but unfortunately burial is not a possible option. At the conclusion of the body donation, family and next of kin will be advised of the impending cremation, and also be advised that any cost relating to the storage or relocation of the ashes will be a private matter between them and the crematorium.

# Education

The teaching of anatomy involves both examination and dissection of the human body; essential for understanding how the body works and why various diseases occur. The precious gift of donating your body can assist in the growth of this knowledge and benefit the training of many students.

QUT is involved in teaching anatomy to a wide array of students involved in many allied health disciplines. These areas of study include applied science, biotechnology, human movement studies, medical engineering, medical physics, medical radiation technology, paramedics, podiatry, and radiotherapy.

The professions that come from these courses form the backbone of medical care in Queensland and Australia.



# *Surgical training*

An important aspect of QUT's Body Bequest Program is facilitating the training of surgeons in specialised surgical procedures. Surgical workshops provide an important foundation step in bringing complicated medical procedures into the operating theatre of all our hospitals; both nationally and internationally. Surgeons are able to trial the latest in medical procedures and develop skills using the latest in medical devices and instruments. QUT has established world-class facilities to make surgical training in Queensland equal to the best found around the world.







# Research

QUT is at the forefront of research into some of the most debilitating of diseases and injuries that affect the quality of life of a large number of Queenslanders and Australians. You can make an important contribution to this work by the generous gift of donating your body. QUT has active research programs in areas such as artificial hearts, spinal disorders and their injuries,

QUT has active research programs in areas such as regeneration of tissues lost as a result of trauma or tumour resection, medical implants and therapies to address spinal disorders and their injuries, and medical robotics to make medical procedures safer and more accessible.



# Completion of Program

At the completion of the teaching, training and research, QUT will advise the next of kin of the impending cremation of the donor's body. QUT will cover the cost of transfer and cremation of the donor's body but please be advised that any additional costs for relocation, storage, or disposal of the ashes will not be covered by QUT.

As part of the body bequest process, occasionally some bodies and parts of bodies may be retained for ongoing teaching or research; however it is usual that the whole body is cremated before the second anniversary of receipt of the body. If indefinite retention is selected on the registration form, it may mean that bodies or body tissue may be retained for extended periods of time past the second anniversary of receipt.

# *Thanksgiving Service*

A memorial service is held regularly in remembrance of those who donated their bodies. These services will give families and next of kin an opportunity to gain closure following the body donation of a loved one. They will also provide an opportunity for families to meet with staff, students and researchers, and understand how precious and important the act of body donation actually is.

## *Book of Remembrance*

The names of body donors will be recorded in a special 'Book of Remembrance' that will publicly acknowledge the generous gift of body donation. This book will be on permanent display at QUT.

# CONTACTING QUT BODY BEQUEST PROGRAM

## Please address correspondence to:

QUT Body Bequest Program  
GPO Box 2434  
Brisbane Qld 4001

**Phone** 07 3138 6944

**Fax** 07 3138 6936

**Email** [bodybequestofficer@qut.edu.au](mailto:bodybequestofficer@qut.edu.au)

**Web** <https://www.qut.edu.au/engage/giving/ways-to-give/body-bequest-program>

**Please note:** Unfortunately, registration as a prospective body donor does not mean that your body will automatically be accepted at the time of your passing. QUT reserves the right to decline a body donation at any time. We thank you for your understanding.