

## Gift of Life Walk: Transcript

---

[Start of transcript]

### *Narration*

While most of us were waking up or having breakfast, thousands started the day with a walk to raise awareness for organ donation.

An early fog wasn't enough to deter the masses – happy to play their part for this important cause.

### *Mallie Ray-Taylor, Participant*

“They're going to go out, they're going to tell their friends, you know 'I did this cool walk, you know raising awareness for organ donation' and they're posting on social media, they're taking photos, they're representing the shirts and the hats.... It's like a huge team has come together.”

### *Narration*

Like many, for David O'Leary it's personal. His life was saved when he received a donated liver 18 years ago.

### *David O'Leary, President Gift of Life*

“It's not exaggerating to say I was on death's door because I probably wouldn't have lasted another 10 hours, but luckily for me a donor became available and it's not all that often that it happens that quickly, but an organ was transported down interstate on a Lear jet and put in; I don't think they gave great chances of my survival but I'm still standing and still contributing.”

### *Narration*

David and his team have made the annual event the largest of its kind in the country.

For Mallie Ray-Taylor this is the first year she's walked without her husband.

### *Mallie Ray-Taylor*

“I lost my husband last April to lung failure; in April 2016 we went to see the transplant team in Sydney and unfortunately he was denied a spot on the list. He had passed the threshold where he was too sick, and too high risk and unfortunately there's just not enough organ donors to be able to give those who are high risk a chance. So Matt's family and friends are all here just carrying on his legacy and raising awareness since it was so important to him.”

### *Narration*

This event sees a spike in the number of registered donors every year. Our staff are a regular fixture, volunteering their time to help people sign up.

### *Hannah Weir, Communications Division*

“A lot of people don't realise how quick and simple it is, you can do it using your Medicare online account through myGov or you can use the Express Plus Medicare mobile app; there's also registration forms that you can fill out... so it's really quick and simple it can take no longer than 5 minutes.”

### *David O'Leary, President Gift of Life*

This year and last year in particular there's been a real focus on the registration, getting more people to register and using the walk for that purpose... so having your team of volunteers out here, young and smiling and encouraging people to sign up, is vital.”

[End of transcript]