

# Bone Donation Program



San Orthopaedic Femoral Bone Donation Program co-ordinator Jill Parker with a model of a femoral bone.

Australia-wide, up to 3,000 orthopaedic and spinal patients requiring bone graft during surgery have benefited thanks to San patients' donation of femoral heads otherwise discarded during hip replacement surgery.

The San does close to 500 hip surgeries a year and in 2017 more than 100 patients donated their femoral heads making the San one of the largest donors in Australia.

Each donation can be used for various grafts for up to 2-4 patients.

***"The recycling of bone from femoral heads replaced during hip surgery can have a significant impact on the lives of patients"***

says San Clinical Orthopaedic Coordinator Jill Parker, who supervises the San Femoral Head Donation Program which operates under the guidance of the Australian Tissue Donation Network (ATDN).

***"Bone graft from donated femoral heads can be beneficial to patients having revision joint replacement surgery, treatment of non-union of fractures, spinal surgery and complex dental surgery."***

The ATDN provides education, workshops and tours for staff involved in either the retrieval process or the implantation of bone graft from donated femoral heads which is processed in clinical laboratory conditions, under strict quality control procedures by specially trained technical staff.

The patients discuss the impact of femoral head donation with their surgeon and coordinator from the network prior to their surgery.

There is no cost to patients and no impact on their surgery or recovery.

The donation program simply recognises that during replacement hip surgery the discarded femoral head is a wasted resource.

San patients' donations are being used in various surgeries to provide the recipients with an improved quality of life all around Australia.

Being a living donor gives families the opportunity to discuss any type of future donation.

Details about the donation program at [www.tissuedonationnetwork.org.au](http://www.tissuedonationnetwork.org.au)