

Compensation for live organ donors

If you donate an organ (either a kidney or part of your liver) in New Zealand, you may be compensated for loss of earnings while you recover.

Due to the compensation available under the Compensation for Live Organ Donors Act 2016, you will not need to use your annual or sick leave unless you need to be off work for longer than the maximum 12-week period the Act covers.

Qualifying for compensation for live organ donors

Before you can donate an organ, you will need to have several tests at hospital to work out if this type of surgery is suitable for you. Once you have been confirmed as a live organ donor by the medical team, you can apply for live organ donor compensation.

To qualify for this compensation:

- you must lose earnings while you are recovering from donating an organ
- the person receiving your donated organ must be eligible for publicly funded health services in New Zealand
- the live organ donor surgery must take place in New Zealand.

Compensation available

If your application for compensation is accepted, you will be paid weekly earnings from the day of your surgery, and for up to 12 weeks while you are recovering. The Ministry of Health pays you under the Compensation for Live Organ Donors Act 2016. The amount you are paid will depend on how much you earn, no matter whether you are an employee, self-employed, a shareholder, living overseas or receiving a benefit with extra income, as long as you meet the above criteria. You will need to provide evidence of your earnings.

If you live overseas and come to New Zealand to make the donation, you will only be paid compensation from the day of your surgery and while you are recovering in New Zealand.

Applying for compensation

If you are interested in receiving compensation for any loss of earnings while you recover from surgery, please discuss this with your donor liaison coordinator. They will discuss the process for compensation with you during your tests to become a donor. They can also help you with your application if you choose to apply.

For more information, visit www.health.govt.nz/liveorgandonation or call the Ministry of Health on: 0800 855 066

Journey for live organ donors

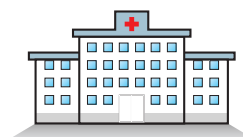
Can I donate my kidney or some of my liver?



If you decide you would like to donate a kidney or part of your liver, first **call the Ministry of Health** for more information on:



You go through a series of tests to work out if the donor surgery is suitable for you. For any specialised tests you need (that is, other than tests at the laboratory or from your doctor), **you will be eligible for National Travel Assistance** to help with some travel and/or accommodation costs.



Once testing is complete and you are a confirmed match for the recipient, you will get a scheduled date for your surgery.

The National Travel Assistance coordinator at your local hospital can help to get you set up for this.

Match



You may be able to receive compensation for loss of earnings while you recover from surgery from the Ministry of Health. Your transplant or donor liaison coordinator can help you with this.

Once a surgery date is scheduled, you can send your Application for Loss of Earnings Form to the Ministry of Health, with evidence of the amount of earnings you will lose. The Ministry of Health works out how much compensation you can get.

Donation

Ready to work!

The hospital will issue a medical certificate for payments to be made. **The Ministry of Health makes compensation payments once a week while you recover.**

You can return to work as soon as you feel ready. If this is before the date on your medical certificate, **let the Ministry of Health know as soon as possible** so that it can stop making compensation payments.

When you return to work, compensation payments end.

Not ready for work!



If you are not ready to return to work on full or reduced hours but your medical certificate has expired, you will need to talk to your medical professional to get an extension. You must send the new medical certificate to the Ministry of Health as soon as possible for payments to continue.

You will get another medical certificate and payments continue (for up to 12 weeks at the most).