



## Transplant Games Announcement

**The Board of Transplant Australia met this week to receive a status report from staff on the merits of the Australian Transplant Games, due to be held in Launceston, Tasmania, in April, 2022.**

These Games had already been postponed twice due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and subsequent border closures.

Key to the considerations were the health and safety of transplant recipients who would attend the Games. Financial considerations, such as the costs of flights and accommodation to the transplant community, were also important.

Tasmania is due to lift its border restrictions later this month however there is still significant uncertainty over the potential impact of the new COVID-19 variant early in the New Year.

After considering all issues the Board passed the following resolution:

‘Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the continued uncertainty about the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on athlete preparation, travel, border restrictions and other key considerations, the Board of Transplant Australia regrettably cancels the Australian Transplant Games due to be held in Launceston, Tasmania in April 2022.

‘The board expressly thanks the Organ & Tissue Authority, Events Tasmania and the Launceston City Council for their support over the last two years and for their understanding at this difficult time.

‘The Board also thanks the staff of Transplant Australia for its commitment to these Games and appreciates the work they have undertaken throughout the COVID Pandemic.’

Transplant Australia CEO, Chris Thomas, said the safety and wellbeing of our athletes, donors and the transplant community will always be our top priority.

“We know that this will come as an enormous disappointment, not only to the athletes, donor families, and volunteers who planned to attend the Games, but also to the local Launceston community,” Mr Thomas said.

“We will bounce back with a series of locally-based events designed for recipients to attend in their home state next year. These will be announced shortly and will help prepare our transplant community for participation in the World Transplant Games, to be held in Australia in Perth in April, 2023.

Chris Thomas  
CEO  
8 December 2021

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