

Health

Choosing a Doctor

You have the right to choose your own doctor. In most cases your doctor must keep the things you talk about confidential.

Consenting to or refusing medical treatment

Except for immediate, life-threatening emergencies, a doctor must ask for your consent before undertaking any medical treatment on you. For minor treatment such as colds and acne, you have the right to consent or refuse. For more complicated treatment like abortions and contraceptive advice you still have the right to consent or refuse the treatment however you will only be allowed to consent to this type of treatment if the doctor believes that you understand all the consequences involved. For complex treatment such as eating disorders, you may not have the right to refuse such treatment even if you fully understand what the consequences are.

Medicare cards

If you are going to visit the doctor you will need to think about how you will pay. Some doctors bulk bill under the government health system. This means that you will not have to pay to visit the doctor. You can only be bulk billed if you have a Medicare card. If you are over fifteen you can apply for your own Medicare card. If you are under fifteen you are included on your parents' Medicare card. In order to get a Medicare card you will need to complete an enrolment form. This is available on the Medicare website and at Medicare offices around Australia. As part of the application you will need to provide original or certified copies of documents such as your birth certificate or passport.

Donating Blood

In the NT, if you are between 16 – 70 years of age then you may be eligible to donate blood. This also depends on a range of factors including your health, weight and recent overseas travel.

➤ **Check out:** www.donateblood.com.au/who-can-give/am-i-eligible

Organ Donation

If you are 16 years or above you can register your decision to be an organ donor after death on the Australian Organ Donor Register. Registration is voluntary. Families still need to be asked to consent to the donation at the time the decisions are being made about the donation. If they don't consent your organs won't be donated. It might be good to sensitively speak to your family about your decision so that they understand your reasons if they are ever placed in this position.

➤ **Check out:** www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/medicare-australian-organ-donor-register