

Employment

Each patient's employment and income situation are different at the time they are referred for a transplant assessment or undergoing transplantation.



- Some patients can work until the day of the transplant. Others stop well beforehand for medical or other reasons
- Some patients have already retired and receive a private or government income stream. Others are at the earlier stages of their working life. Some are supporting themselves only or they could be supporting themselves and young families, whilst others are supporting young adult children who are studying. Others are self-employed
- Some people have had the same employer for years. Others are in the process of moving between careers, jobs or workplaces including work-from-home
- Some of the patients are working in cities and regional centres, whilst others are fly in and fly out
- Whatever the situation, it is likely that a transplant will create some changes to your everyday life. For some there is not much impact, yet for others there is a greater affect. It can be helpful for patients and their partner or family to discuss their employment situation with the treating team. If changes are needed, for example work is to stop or reduce for a certain time, relevant support letters can be provided for employers. Centrelink Medical Certificates and medical evidence documents can be provided.
- After the transplant, patients may need to have at least 3 months off work. This is a guideline as work types and responsibilities vary greatly. Some patients need 6 to 12 months off work to recover after the transplant. Others can manage aspects of work within weeks of the transplant. Medical circumstances determine the right time to return to work. In our experience, employers who are aware of the patient's medical situation do provide the correct leave and wages.
- Some patients decide to shift towards another direction after successful transplant, choosing to retrain or go back to study. There are plenty of options which open new opportunities for income, work flexibility and work satisfaction. Job employment agencies including those specialising in finding work for people experiencing disability or changed health status - are helpful. There are private and government organisations which can help patients to explore study, vocational and employment options.



- The treating team strongly encourage all patients after transplantation once they have recovered from surgery, to take part in some form of meaningful activity be it work, family care, study, community or volunteer activity
- Transplantation aims to restore health of the individual enabling them to make life choices that are suitable, productive and meet their values and overall health circumstances. It is an individual experience for each transplant recipient. Patients are welcome to contact the social worker any time to discuss options.

Useful websites:



- **Training Queensland**
Education and training | Queensland Government.
www.qld.gov.au/education/training
- **TAFE Queensland**
Courses & Training - Online & On-Campus.
www.tafeqld.edu.au
- **TAFE New South Wales**
Choose from hundreds of courses. Explore. Enquire. Enrol.
www.tafensw.edu.au
- **Course Finder**
Education and training | Queensland Government.
www.qld.gov.au/education/further-ed/course-info
- **Australian University Courses**
Courses in Australia.
www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au/course-provider
- **Open Education (online) Courses**
Open Universities Australia.
www.open.edu.au/online-courses
- **Relaxation Centre Queensland Courses**
www.relaxationcentreqlld.org
- **Queensland Liver Transplant Service**
www.qld.gov.au/health/services/specialists/queensland-liver-transplant-service
- **Queensland Kidney Transplant Service**
www.qld.gov.au/health/services/specialists/kidney-transplant