

LIVING KIDNEY DONOR APPEAL

I am writing in my capacity of Secretary of the Leeds Branch of NARPO (National Association of Retired Police Officers).

The following is an Appeal from a Leeds member's son who is living in Australia:

All is not as it seems..... This has been an incredibly hard one for me to come to terms with. Late last year I was diagnosed with stage 5 chronic kidney disease. Both of my kidneys have pretty much failed and I'm now weeks away from needing to go on dialysis.

For months and months I just assumed I was getting old, the tiredness, aches, pains, shortness of breath, I just thought "being mid 30's really sucks", but little did I know I was running on 14% kidney function and this has recently that's dropped down to 10%.

Having just welcomed into the world my beautiful son Robin, this couldn't have come at a worse time. The fear of not being able to provide and support my family is something that eats away at me every day. I have been guilty of letting this get the better of me, and I have been carrying a grey cloud over my head for weeks now!

Living here in Australia as a temporary resident has created its own problems, especially with regards to our long-term outlook on being able to stay here. Apparently, they aren't too keen on immigrants with health issues.

Kidney disease is a pretty bleak illness; often with no known cause and worse still no cure. Unlike other organs in the body, the kidney cannot regenerate. Long story short, once they are damaged there is no healing them.

So, a transplant is the only long-term solution.

Now usually people turn to family for transplant donors but as many of you might know, I have a very small family that consists of my dad who is nearly 80 years old and my sister. Unfortunately, my mother passed away when I was 16. I am adopted, which means I don't have much of a lineage to call upon.

My sister has offered to come forward as a donor, for which I am unbelievably thankful; however, she has her own family with 4 kids which presents its own challenges. We are going through the necessary tests and matching but nothing is guaranteed.

So, this leaves me in a very desperate situation. With less than 4 months left until our visa expires, our hopes of getting a new visa without having completed a successful transplant means we will face deportation and I will most likely lose my job, home and livelihood.

Why am I telling you all this?... well, in the hope that someone with a compassionate, generous and loving heart will read this and come forward.

This is without doubt the hardest thing I've ever had to do and just putting these words down, means I must finally admit to myself, the reality of the situation.

I don't take lightly the magnitude of what I am asking, but neither do I take lightly likelihood of not seeing my 40th birthday without a transplant.

If nothing else I want to raise your awareness to kidney disease; it almost always creeps up on people with little or no symptoms until it's too late.

I've learned, you never know what someone is going on behind closed doors. Everything can appear perfect, but in reality; they are battling for their life, each day; so be kind wherever

you can! 

If you feel it in your heart that you may wish to help me, please reach out 

The family are willing to fund FULL COSTS e.g. air fare, full medical costs, loss of income, subsequent accommodation and living expenses for as long as it takes for fully recovery for travel purposes.

Please feel free to share the as far and wide as possible as I feel there is someone out there who is waiting to help this young man.

If anyone wishes to respond to this appeal, please contact me

Tel: 07791 864260

or Email: leedsnarpo@gmail.com

Kindest Regards

John Birkenshaw (Leeds NARPO – Secretary)

Secretary

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