



**Stem Cell
Donors**
Australia

2024 Performance Report

Stem cell donations and
transplants in Australia

2024 Key metrics

1,183

Australian patients registered with us for an unrelated donor search

23%

The increase in the number of Australian patients registering with us for a search since 2022

458

Australians received a stem cell transplant from an unrelated donor

16%

The increase in the number of Australian patients receiving an unrelated stem cell transplant since 2022

79%

of donations to Australian patients were made by overseas donors

165,363

Total size of donor pool in Australia at end 2024

74,919

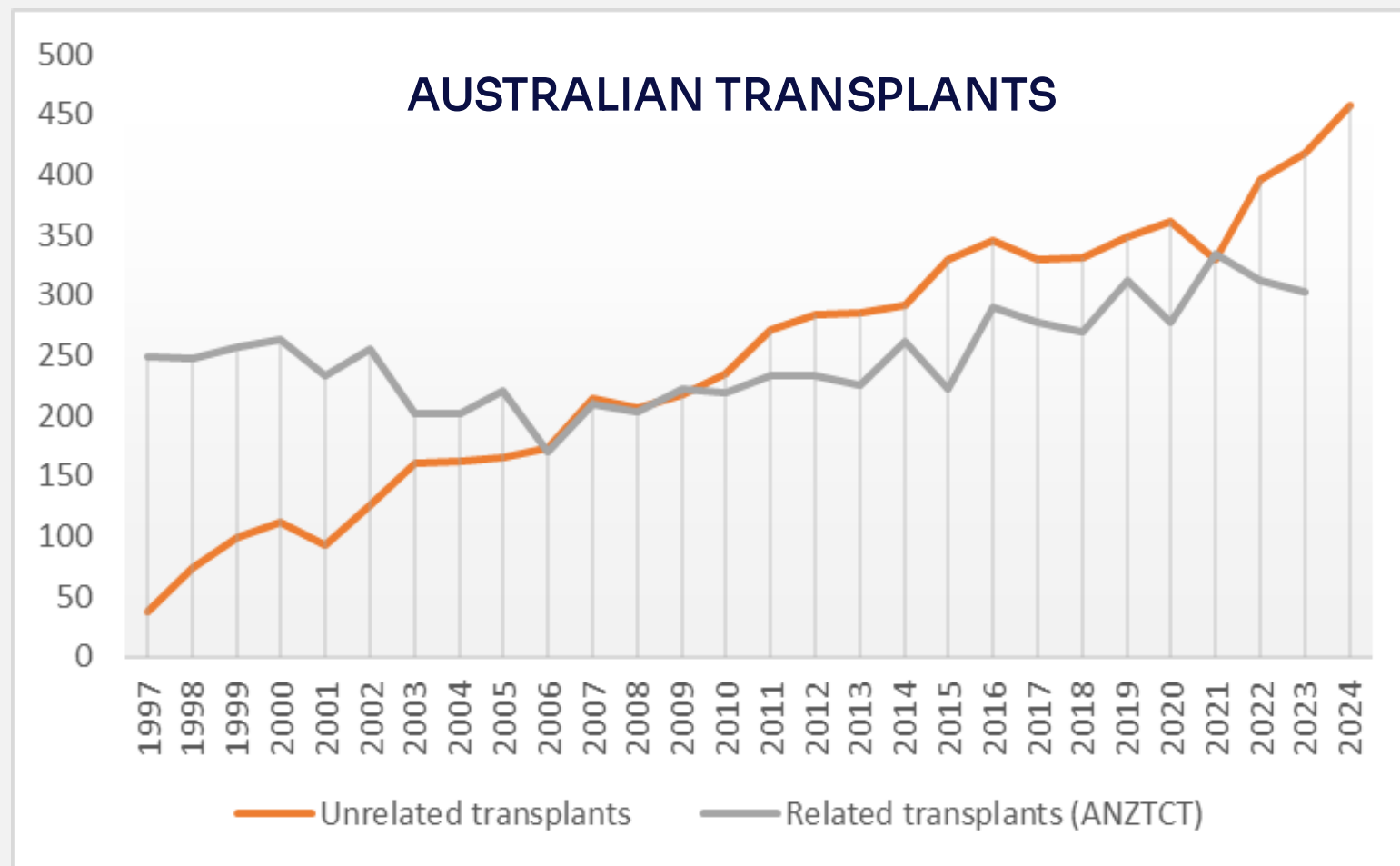
Australian donors were aged 18-35

40%

The increase in the number of donors aged 18-35 since 2022

Demand for unrelated donors continues to grow strongly

Most Australian patients cannot find a suitable stem cell donor in their family and depend on a volunteer donor.

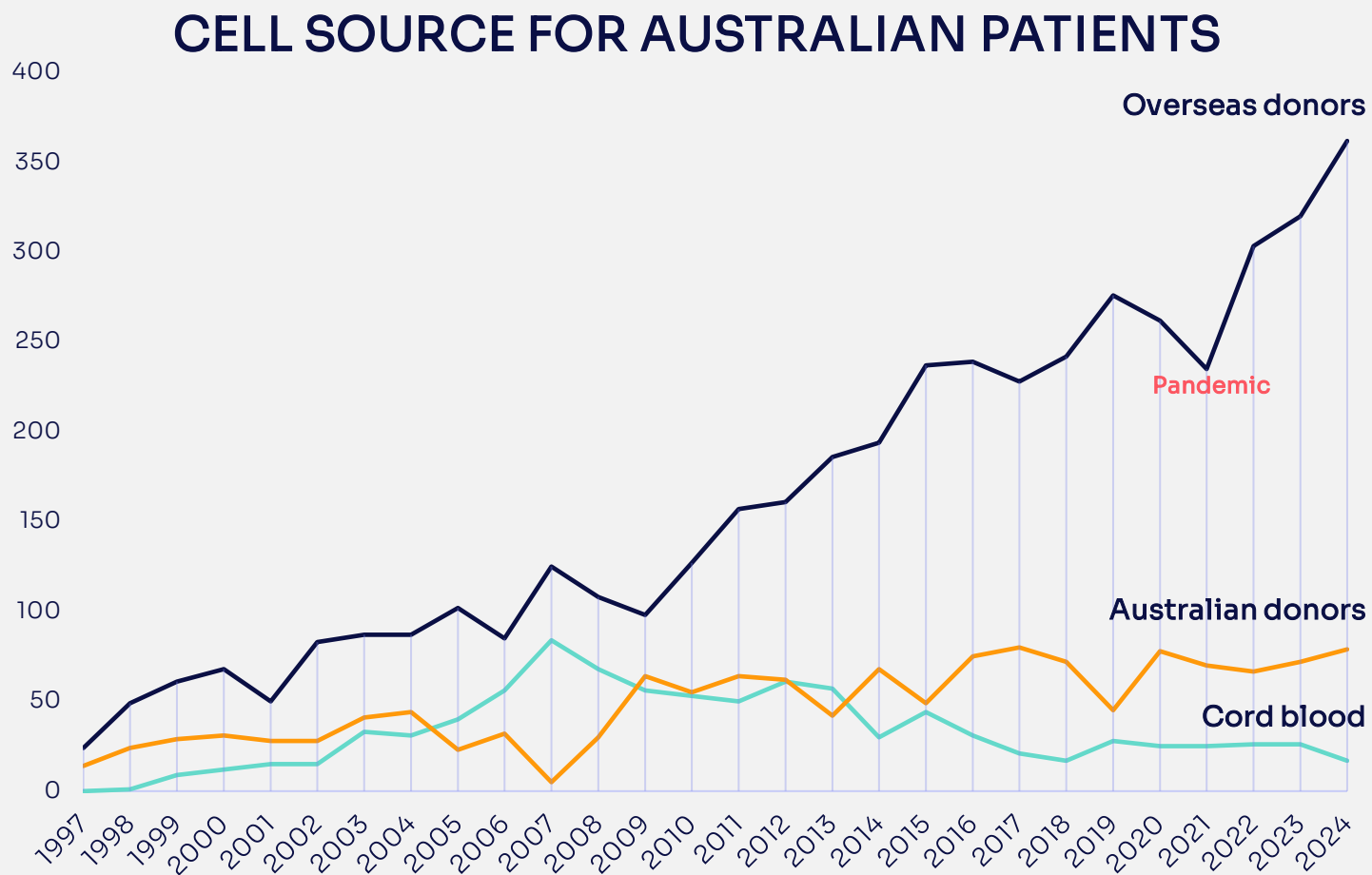


Sources: Stem Cell Donors Australia (unrelated transplant data); ANZTCT Registry Annual Data Summaries (related transplant data).

Australia still relies heavily on overseas donors

Overseas donors remain, by far, our greatest source of donors for Australian patients.

Umbilical cord blood is a declining source of stem cells for patients in Australia, which reflects the trend seen around the world.



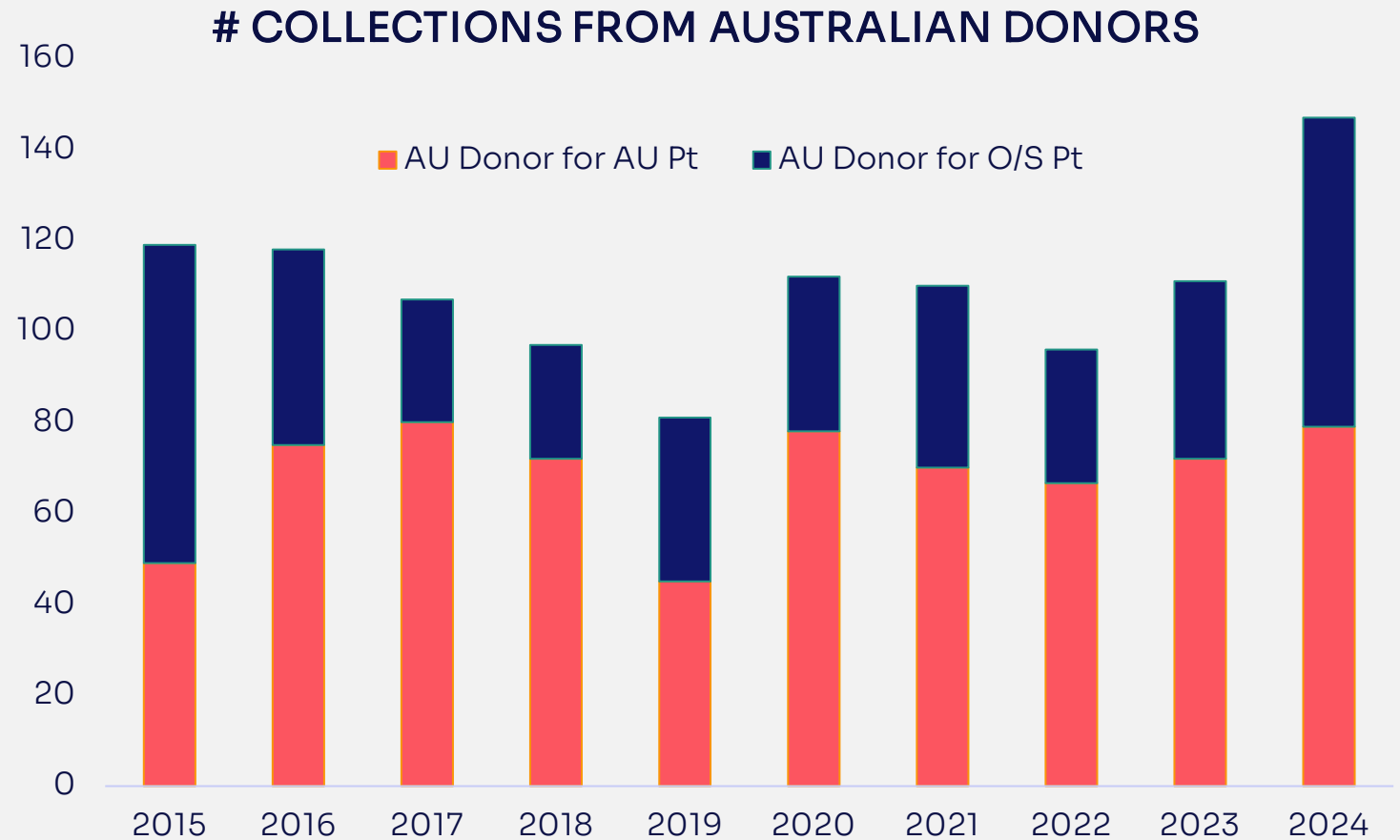
Source: Stem Cell Donors Australia data

Australian donors are increasingly in demand

Until 2020, demand for Australian donors was declining due to the diminishing size of the donor pool, and the older age of Australian donors compared to overseas donor pools.

The pandemic years saw an increase in Australian donations to Australian patients due to border closures and limited air travel - impacting our ability to import and export stem cells.

The pandemic years coincided with increased donor recruitment and the introduction of cheek swabs, which has led to Australian donors being increasingly in demand.



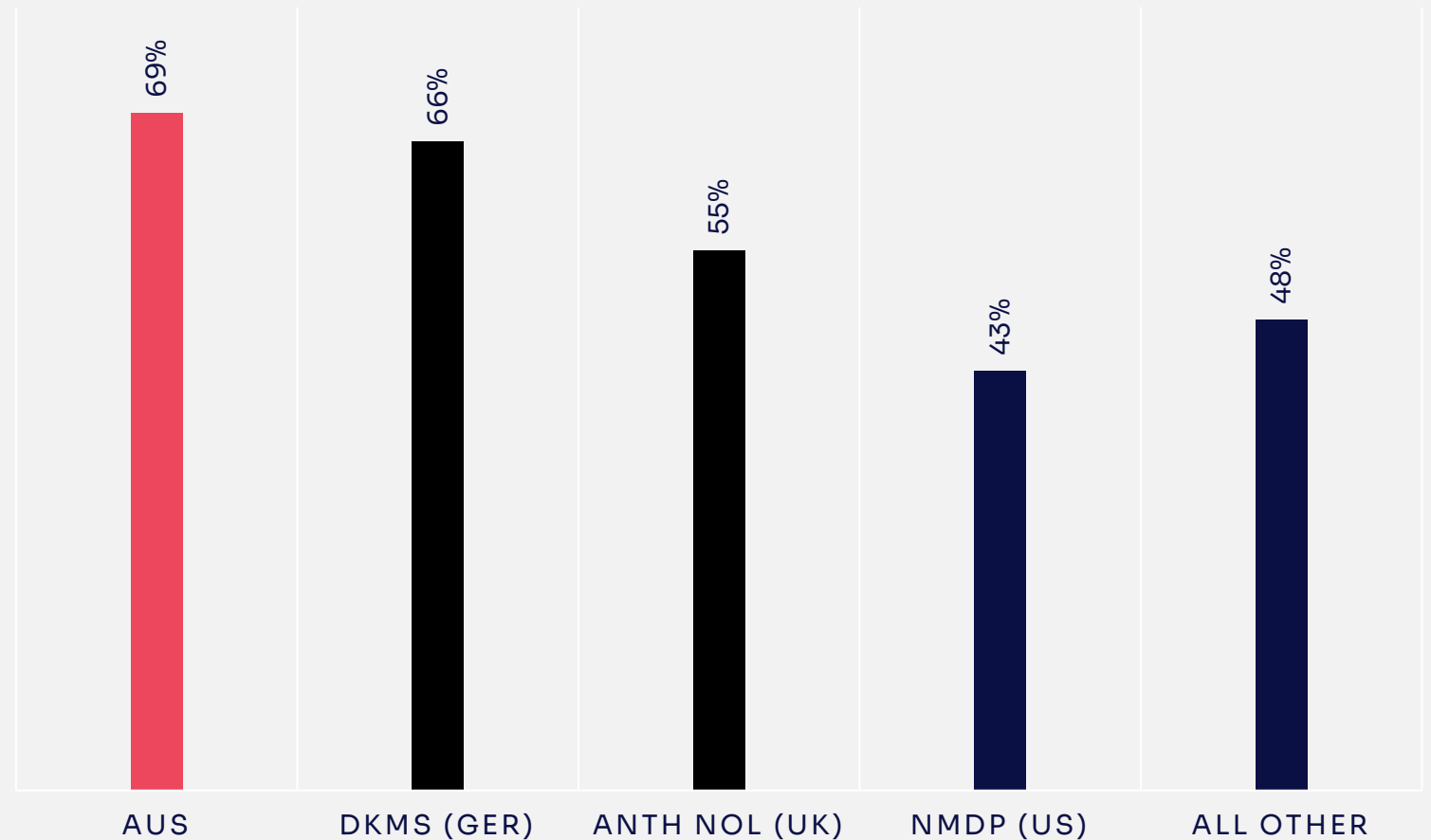
Source: Stem Cell Donors Australia data

Australian donors are currently the most reliable

It isn't enough to just join the registry – donors have to remain in contact and be willing to say YES to donation if they are called upon. Australia's donors are now more likely to say YES when matched with an Australian patient than major overseas registries.

Evidence shows that donors that join a registry through postal cheek swabs make the most reliable donors.

MATCHED DONOR AVAILABILITY FOR AUS PATIENTS YTD 2025



Source: Stem Cell Donors Australia data

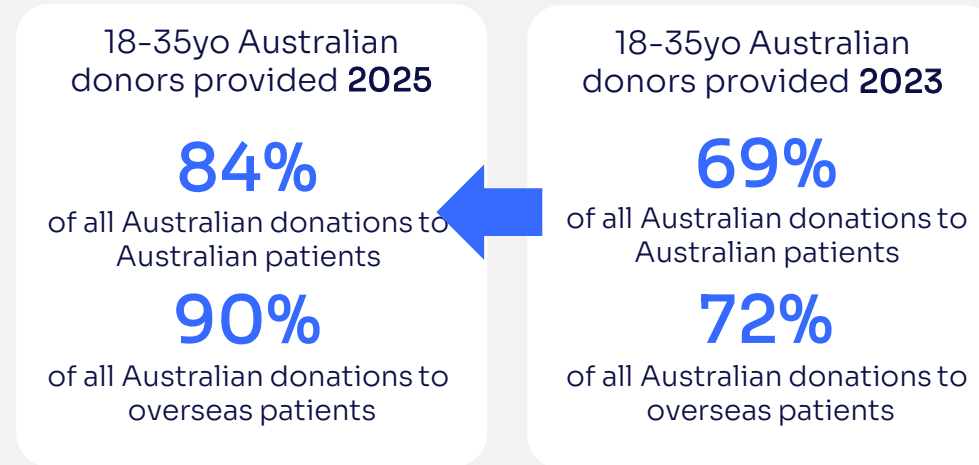
The future depends on younger donors

Clinicians place great importance on donor age, with many studies showing its impact on recipient complications and survival. Donations from donors up to 30yo are associated with significantly improved patient outcomes compared to older donors.

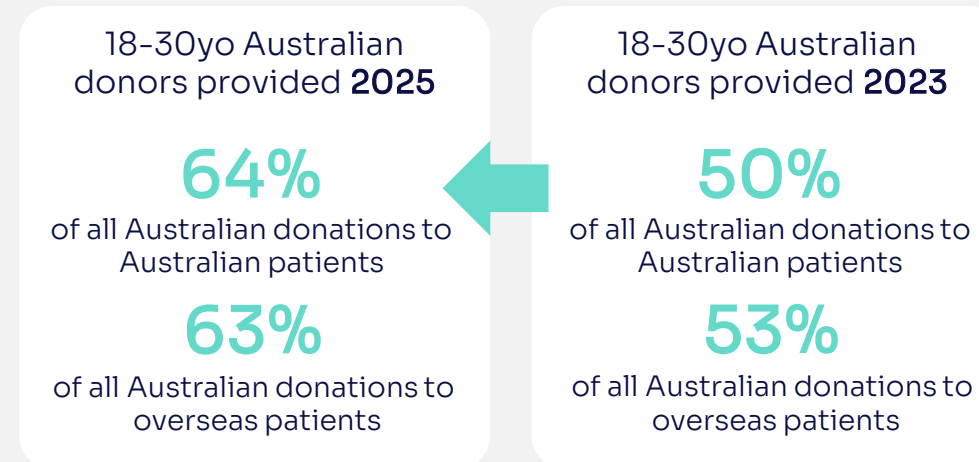
This is leading to a significant increase in how often young Australian donors are being chosen for patients.

The Registry continues to advocate for increased investment in recruiting young donors.

Patient demand for 18-35 y.o. Australian donors



Most of these donations are from donors up to 30yo



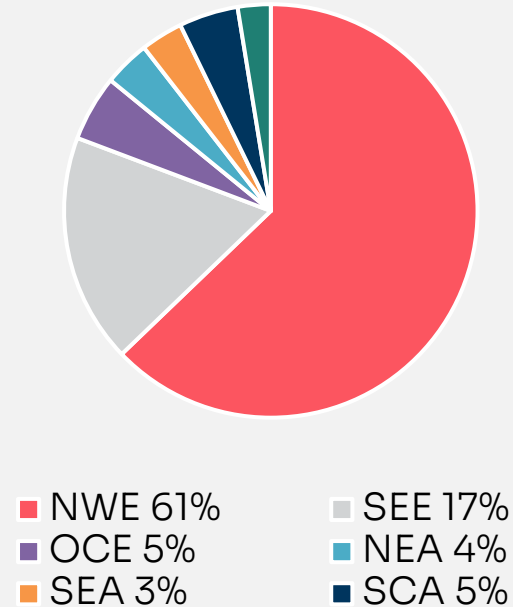
Diversity is also critical

The diversity of our younger donors is a good match for the diversity of the overall Australian population.

Stem Cell Donors Australia has a particular responsibility to ensure that our First Nations people can find suitable matches in our donor pool, 3% of our younger donors report having First Nations ancestry, which aligns to the overall population. We will continue to prioritise the recruitment of donors from First Nations and Pasifika communities.

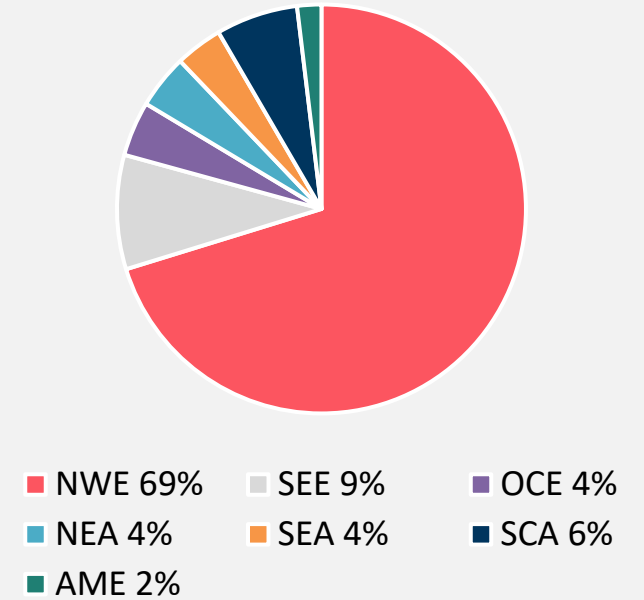
While having a similar donor diversity profile to the Australian population is good, unless we grow the size of our pool substantially, the benefit of this diversity cannot be realised.

Ancestries of 18-35 Donors¹



¹This includes all provided first and second ancestries: an individual could be counted twice. Categories with <1% have not been shown.

Ancestries of Australians, 2021 Census²



²This includes respondent's first recorded ancestries only. Categories with <1% have not been shown

Ancestry is coded using a modified form of the Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCEG), 2019, to better align to probable HLA typing.

NWE = North-West European (including those responding 'Australian' and 'New Zealander'). SEE = Southern & Eastern European. OCE = Oceanian (excluding 'Australian' and 'New Zealander'). NEA = North-East Asian. SEA = South-East Asian. SCA = South & Central Asian. AME = North African & Middle Eastern.

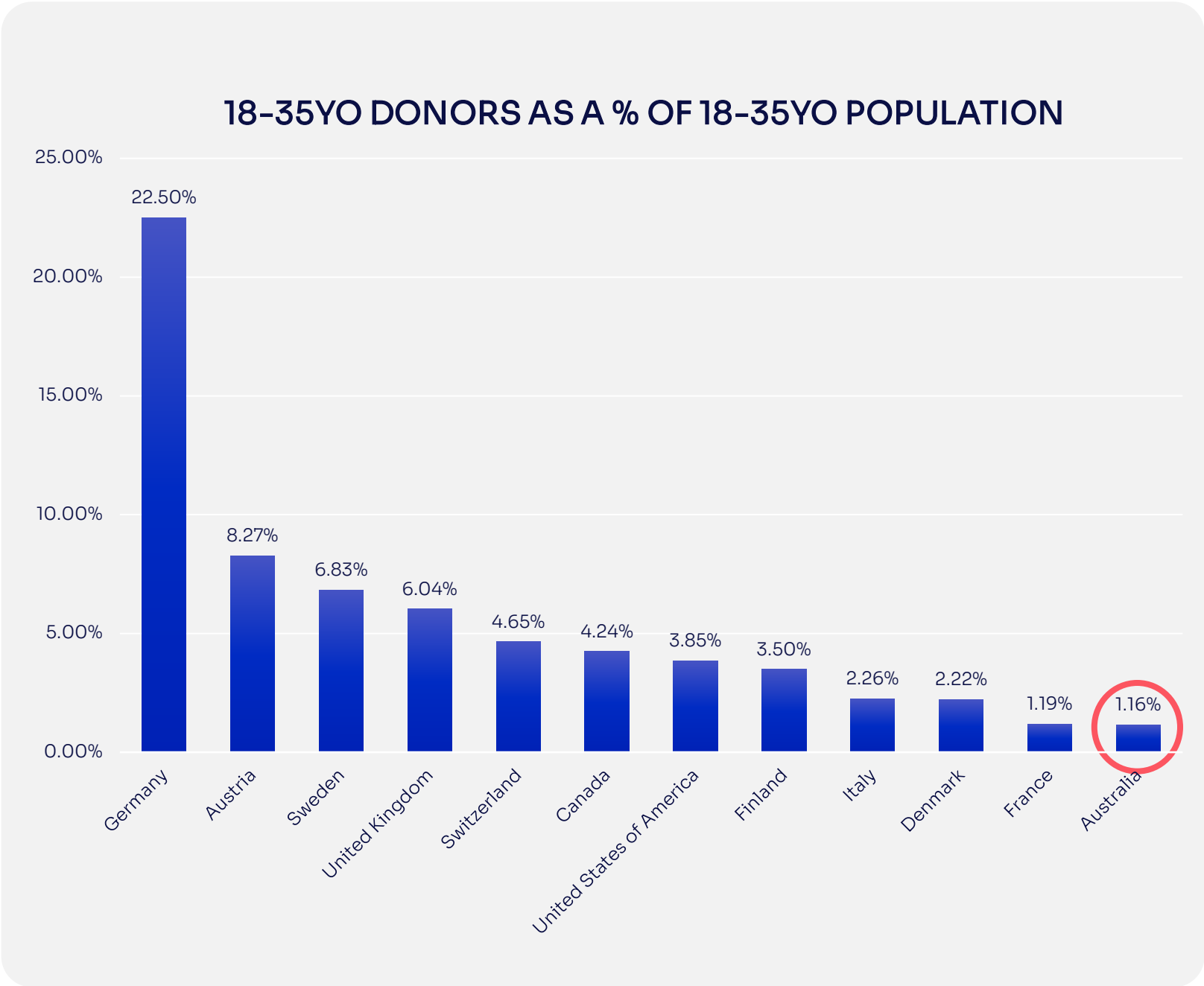
Source: Stem Cell Donors Australia data and the 2021 ABS Australian Census

Registry size: still a way to go

We compare our recruitment levels against countries that transplant at comparable per capita rates to Australia.

Australia ranks 12 of 12, which means that per capita we have the smallest pool of young donors of any comparable nation.

More needs to be invested in educating and supporting young Australians to join the Registry to support the national goal of greater self-sufficiency in meeting the needs of Australian patients.

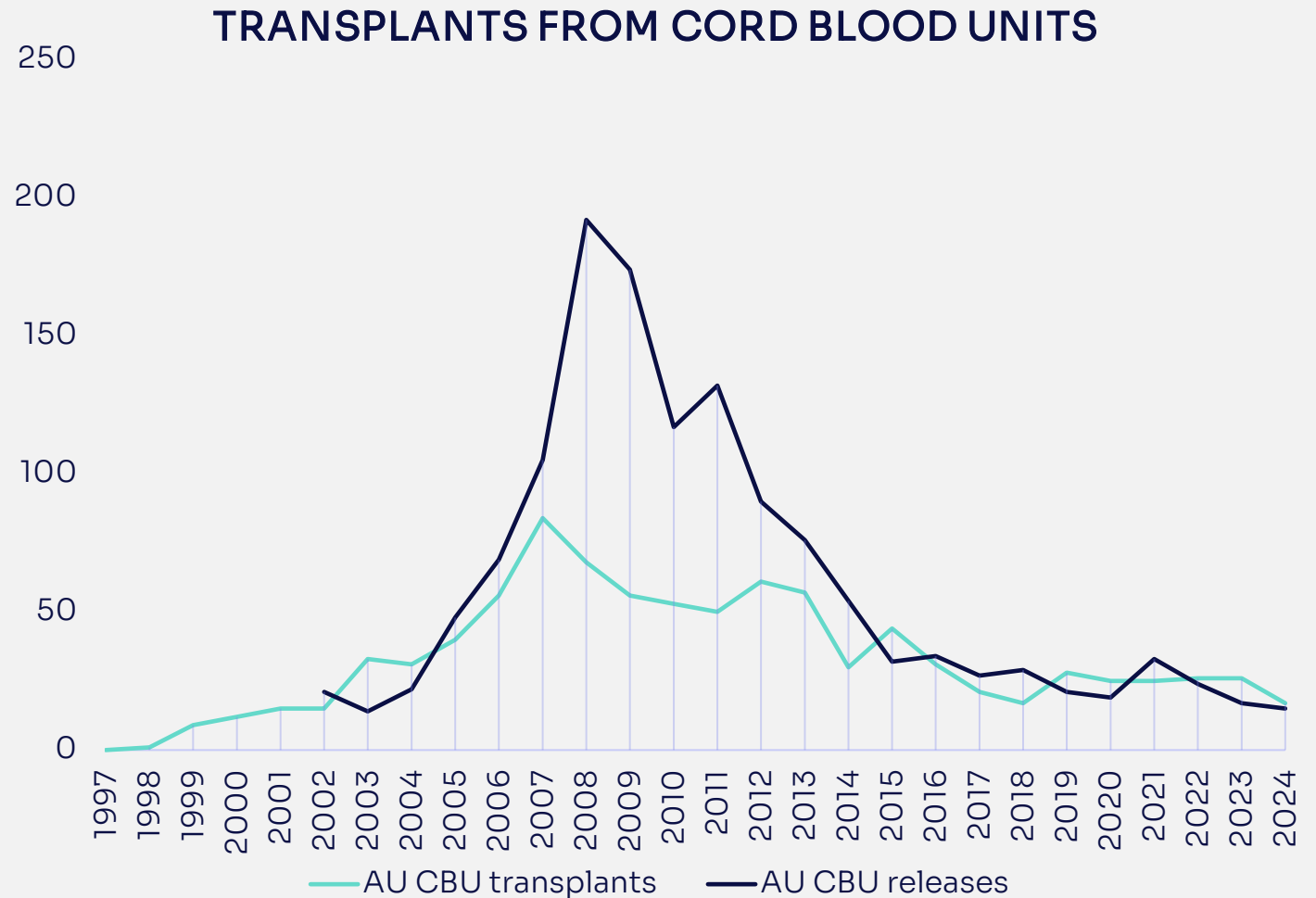


Sources: WMDA Global Trends Report data 2024; UN World Population Estimates 2024

Cord blood decline

With the worldwide decline in use of cord blood units (CBUs) comes a decline in the number of CBUs requested for release from Australia's 3 publicly-funded cord blood banks.

Today, these 3 banks hold around 35,000 cord blood units combined. Other uses for this stored cord blood continue to be explored.



Source: Stem Cell Donors Australia data

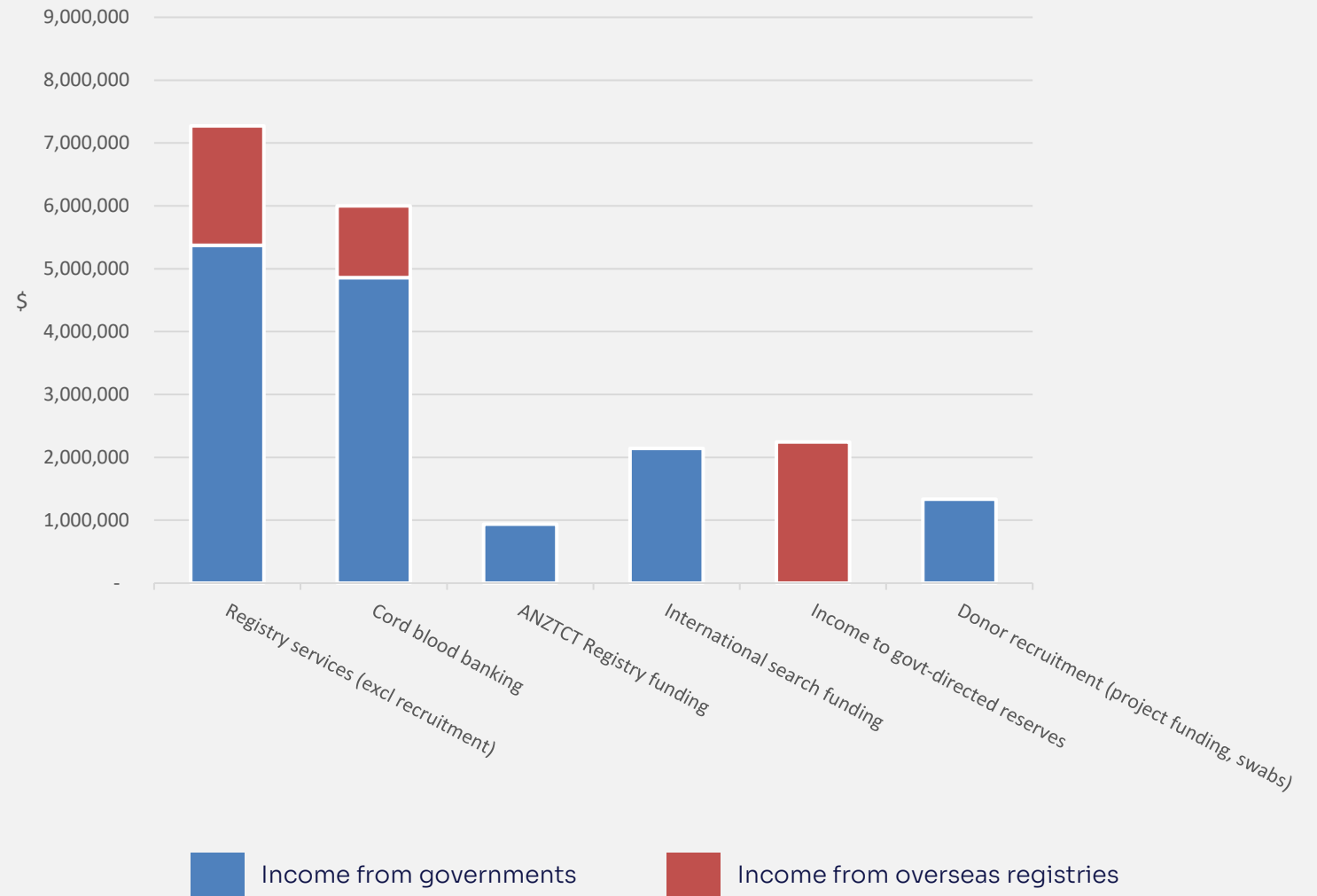
Income sources

As well as being a donor registry, Stem Cell Donors Australia is a contracting agent for governments to fund Australia's 3 publicly-funded cord blood banks and the production of Annual Data Summaries - containing patient outcome data - from the ANZTCT Registry. We also manage payments to overseas registries to search their donors.

We receive income from State, Territory and Commonwealth governments and, when Australian stem cells are required for overseas patients, from overseas donor registries. Most of this income from overseas registries must be allocated to special reserves that we hold on behalf of governments.

We have also recently secured funding to recruit 9,200 new donors by cheek swab. This funding is not committed on an annual or ongoing basis.

Income Sources, by Service



Source: Stem Cell Donors Australia data