

Hair Donation FAQ's

Treatments / Styles:

Can I donate my dreadlocks?

Unfortunately we can't use dreadlocks.

Can dyed hair be donated?

Yes, dyed hair is acceptable, as long as it is in good condition. Clean hair, free from chemical treatments is preferred, as this produces a higher quality of wig.

Length:

My hair is shorter than 25 cm - I really would like to donate as soon as possible, but if it is too short I can wait to let it grow.

Unfortunately, hair needs to be at least 25 cm long for our wigmaker to use.

Must donated hair be one length or can it be layered?

One length (ponytail length 25 cm) is easier for our wigmaker to work with

Hey, my hair is naturally curly and I was wondering should I donate it curly or straight?

You can donate curly or straight hair, as long as your ponytail donation is 25 cm in length.

I have curly hair, but when I straighten it, it is longer and will meet required length of 25 cm – must I straighten if before making my hair donation?

Straighten your hair so that it meets the required length – be sure to bind both ends of the ponytail with an elastic band.

My hair is about 60 cm long and I am planning to shave it all. However I have been told that only 25 cm will be used and the rest of the hair will go to waste. Should I only cut one 25 cm ponytail? Or will the entire 60cm be used to make a wig?

Hair must be 25 cm OR LONGER, so your 60 cm ponytail will be very welcome – just be sure to tie the top with an elastic band, as well as the middle and bottom, to keep the hair from getting damaged.

How long does hair keep?

My hair donation has been in a plastic ziplock bag for a month – can I still donate it?

Yes, as long as the bag is airtight and the hair has been kept dry – hair does not age.

Who cuts & prepares hair for donation?

Is a specific hairdresser recommended by CANSA Care Centres?

Contact your local hairdresser – put your hair in a ponytail and let them cut for you. They can then style your short hair – referrals are not provided by CANSA Care Centres.

Are hairdressers on standby at Shavathon events to cut ponytail & style hair?

No, only volunteers who will remove your ponytail. You need to make an appointment with a hairdresser to arrange for styling of short hair.

How it works?

Must I plait my hair before donating it?

This is not necessary – tie in a ponytail with an elastic, cut ponytail above elastic and secure bottom of ponytail with another elastic.

Do I have to shave my head when donating hair?

No, you tie your hair in a ponytail, which is then removed. Your hair will be shorter, but it is not necessary to shave your head.

When can I donate my hair?

All year round at your local CANSA Care Centre or CANSA Head Office. When enough hair donations have been collected at a particular Care Centre, they are sent to CANSA's Head Office, and from there to our wigmaker.

Hair donations may also be made at public annual Shavathon events held countrywide at shopping centres end Feb / beginning March.

Will the hair from shaved heads at Shavathon be used to make wigs?

Only long hair over 25 cm is kept – (the short hair is sometimes used to produce mats for oil spills). The hair is then delivered to our wigmaker to make wigs for cancer Survivors.

We partner with Marie Claire - "Kindest Cut Campaign" - where the donated hair is turned into wigs to give to cancer survivors in need, via our CANSA Care Centres across the country.

How do I get my hair donation to CANSA?

I would like to donate my ponytail, however I'm out of the country. How do I get my hair donation to CANSA?

You can post it to CANSA Head Office, Hair Donations, P.O. Box 2121, Bedfordview 2008, South Africa

When posting my hair donation, do I have to do so via registered mail?

Unless you wish to track your hair donation's progress, this is not necessary.

Wigs:

What kind of wigs are stocked at CANSA Care Centres?

There are synthetic wigs and real hair wigs at our Care Centres

Where can I purchase human hair wigs?

At our CANSA Care Centres (they are given at no cost – but donations are welcome)

What is the difference between synthetic and human hair wigs?

Synthetic wigs are made from “fake” hair, while human hair wigs are made from hair donations we receive

How much do human hair wigs cost?

They usually start from around R2000 at retailers/hair dressers

I have made a hair donation – would I be able to see the wig it was used for?

Unfortunately, as many donors' hair donations are used to make one wig, this will not be possible.

I would like to donate my hair for a wig – but would like the option to obtain the wig myself for family member – how can I proceed?

Several hair donors' hair donations may be required to have enough to make a wig. So your hair may not be enough. However, our wigmaker can try to put your hair in a position on the wig so that your loved one can see it, at no extra cost.

Contact Head Office and specify that you would like your hair donation to be used for a specific wig. When you send your hair donation to us, label it with your details clearly and make sure to specify that you have spoken to us. Make sure you follow requirements for hair donations.

The wig making process can take between 8 and 12 weeks.

Does CANSA donate wigs to people who are not cancer Survivors, but have a different condition resulting in hair loss?

We prefer to give it to cancer patients, but do help other people in need