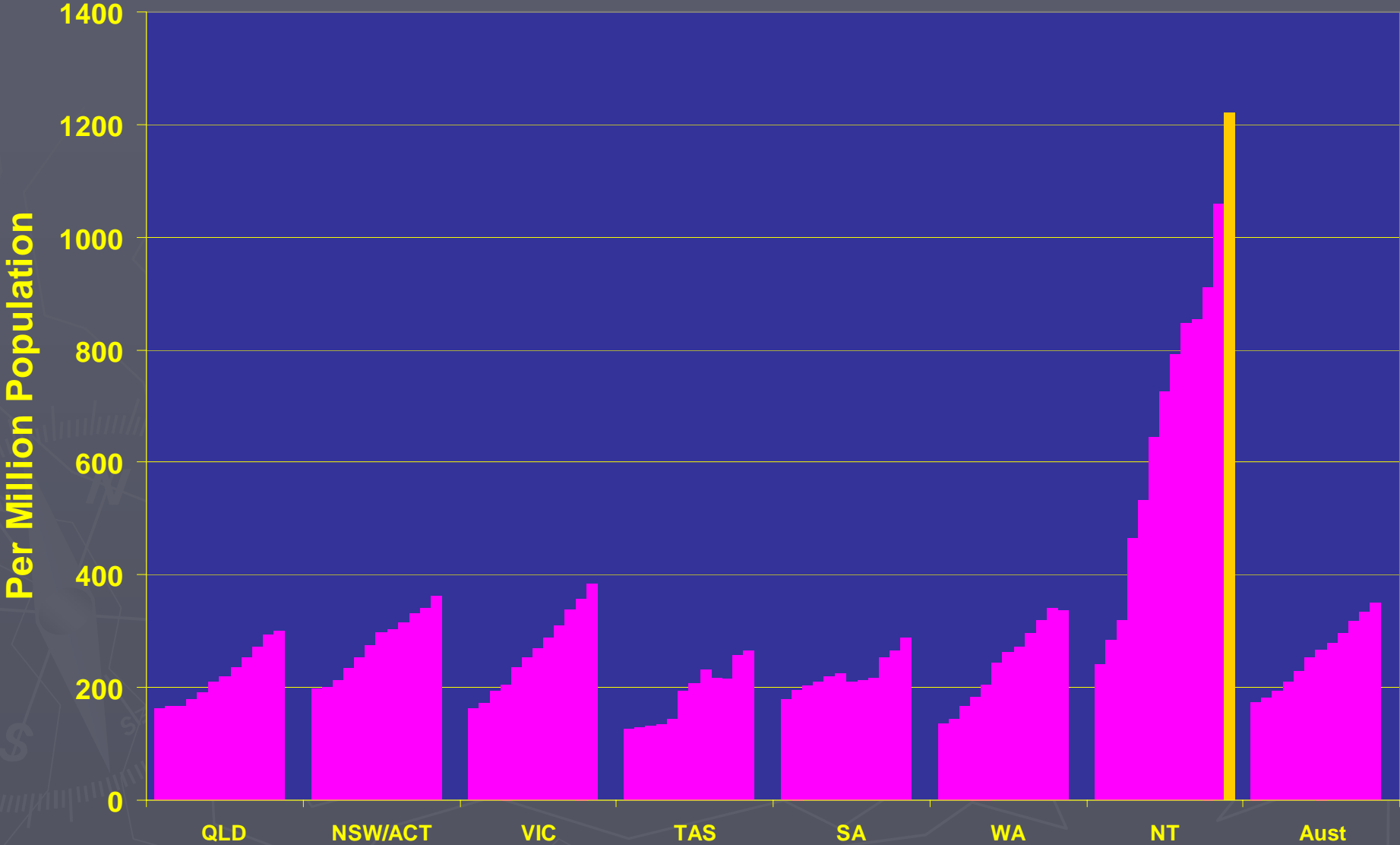


# The Organ Trade

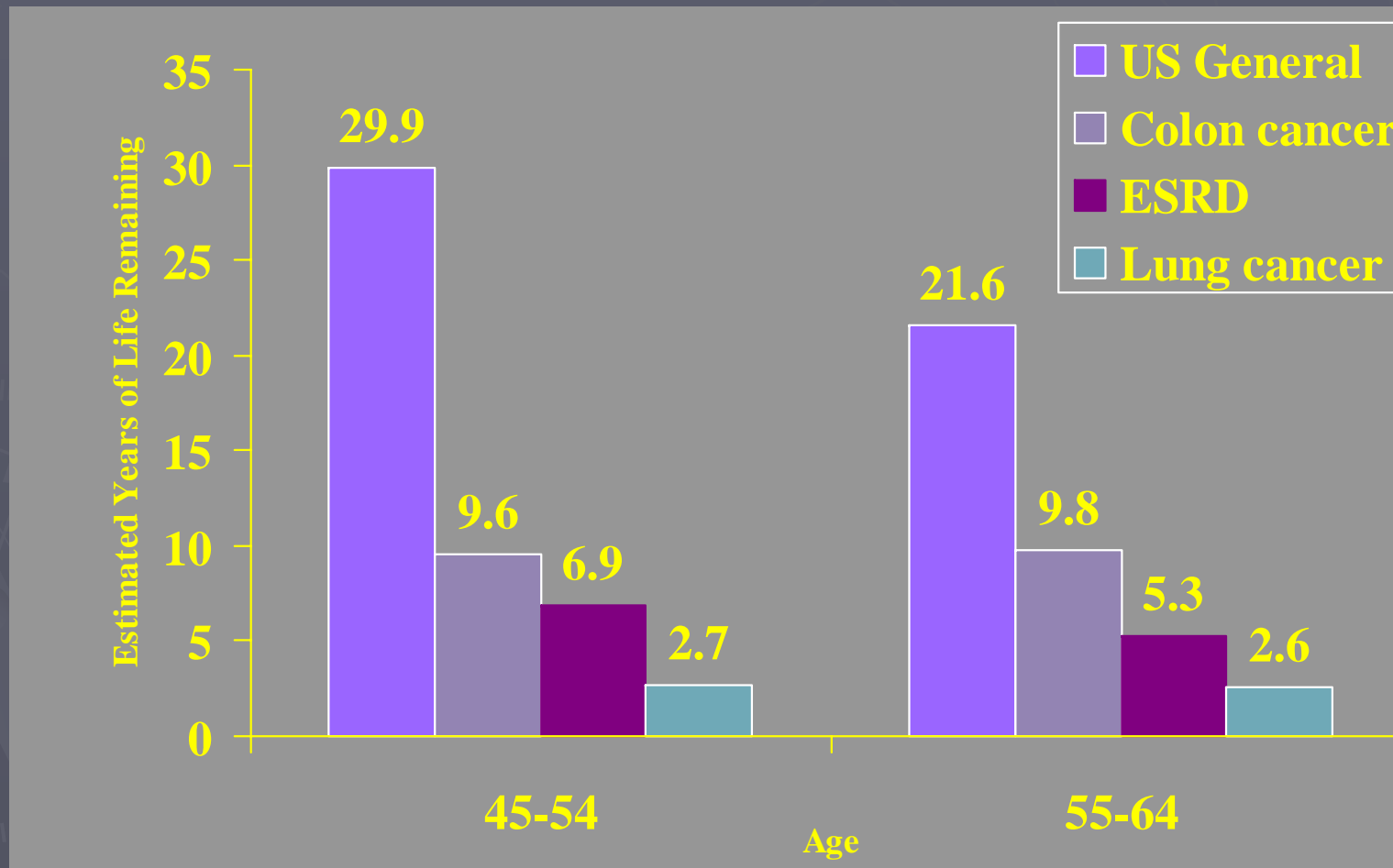
- ▶ "But the very idea of organ scarcity has to be questioned. It is an artificially created need invented by transplant technicians and dangled before the eyes of the sick, aging, and dying population. And it is a scarcity that can never under any circumstances be satiated, for underlying the need is the quintessentially human denial and refusal of death."

# Prevalence of Dialysis Patients, 1990-2001



ANZDATA, 2003

# Estimated Lifespan with ESRD vs Cancer



# Transplantation – changing patterns

## ▶ 25 years ago

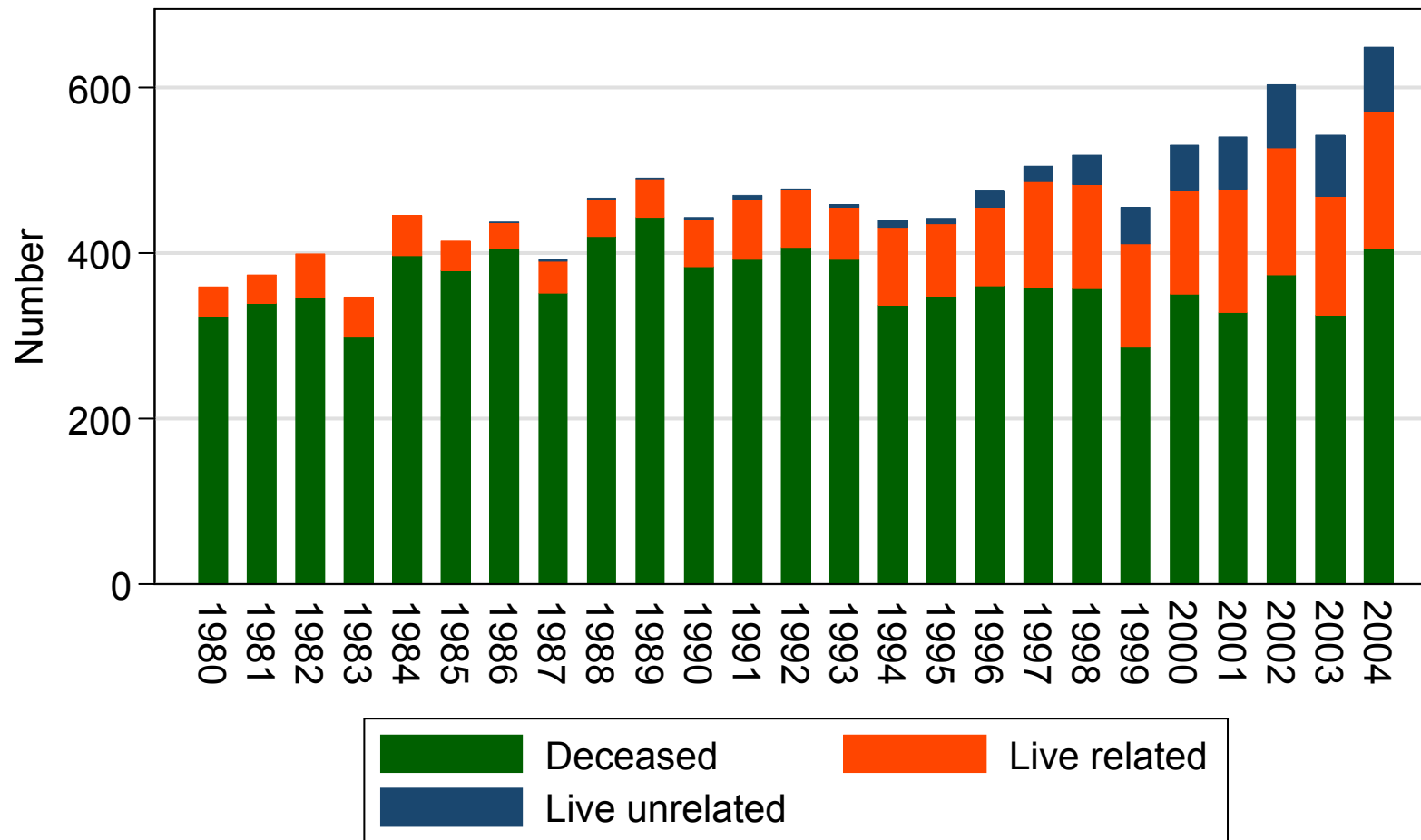
- Limited immunosuppression
- A quality of life operation
- Average wait < 1 year
- LURD rarely performed

## ▶ Now

- Survival benefit to transplantation
- Patient / graft survival inversely related to dialysis time
- Pre-emptive transplantation has additional survival benefit
- LURD outcome same as LRD transplants
  - ▶ Both better than deceased donor transplants

# Kidney transplant donors

Australia 1980-2004



ANZDATA Registry

# Transplantation and scarcity

- ▶ Deceased donor
  - Education programs
  - "spanish model"
  - Marginal donors
  - Highly sensitised
  - Non-heart beating
  - Opt-out
- ▶ Living donor
  - Spousal
  - Living unrelated
- ▶ Decreasing the pool
  - Age
  - Co-morbidity
  - Outcomes
- ▶ 1,600 patients on waiting list (Dec 2003)
- ▶ 543 Tx operations
  - 6% mortality of wait list patients
  - 17 % mortality dialysis

# Transplantation, Scarcity and Organs for Sale

- ▶ Unregulated trade in most countries
  - Variable patient results
    - ▶ Usually worse than local
    - ▶ Increased infections
  - Adverse donor outcomes
    - ▶ Poor health
    - ▶ Loss of earning
    - ▶ stigmatization



# Organs Sales

- ▶ "The well established position of transplantation societies against commerce in organs has not been effective in stopping the rapid growth of such transplants around the world. Individual countries will need to study alternative, locally relevant models, considered ethical in their societies, which would increase the number of transplants, protect and respect the donor, and reduce the likelihood of rampant, unregulated commerce"

# Living Kidney Sales

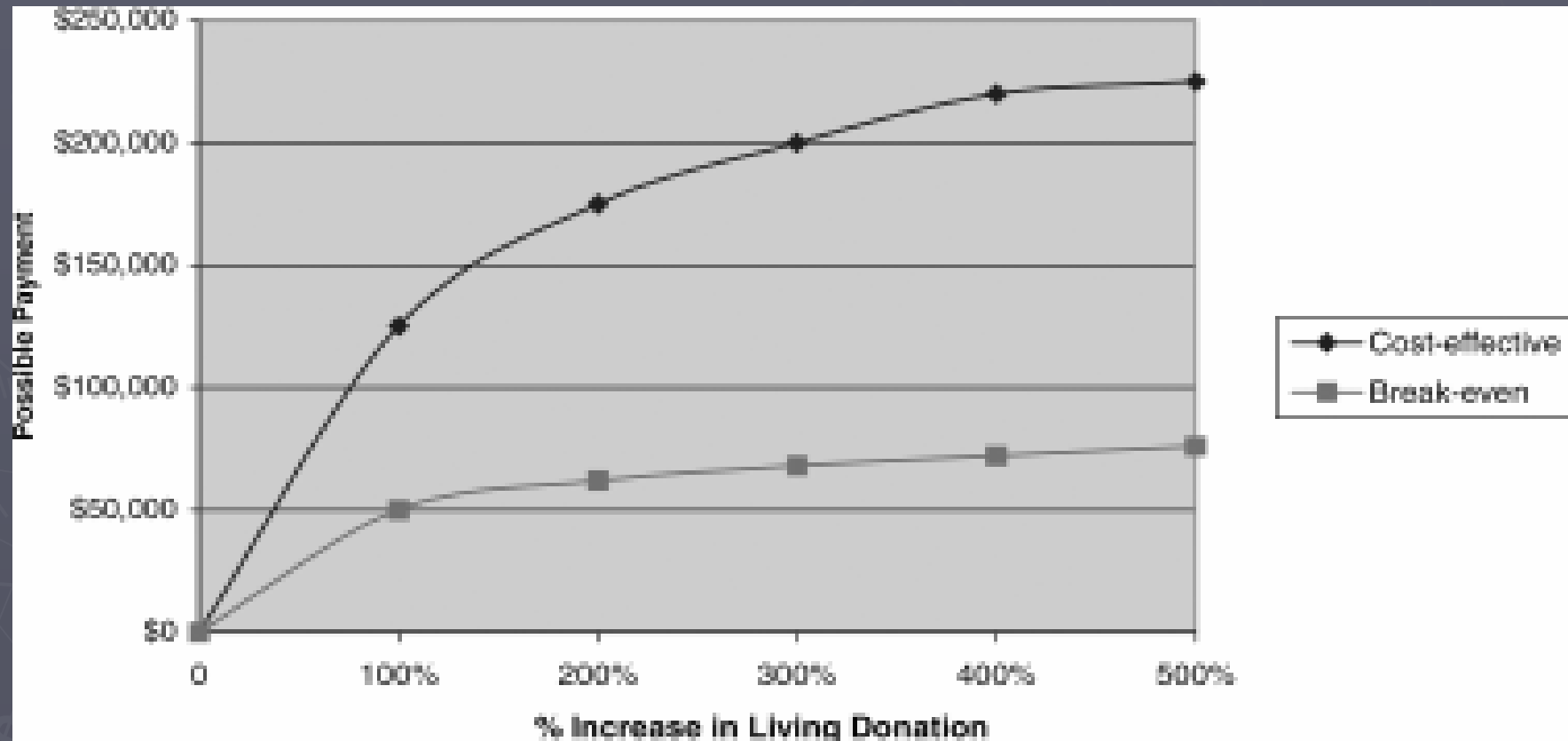
## ► Case for

- Improved patient survival
- Precedent for living donation
- Precedent for tissue sales – eggs/sperm/blood
- autonomy

## ► Case against

- Exploitation of the poor
- Commodification of the body
- Harm to vendor
- Lack of genuine consent
- Desire for altruism
- Erosion of trust in doctor-patient relation
- Abuse of the system

# What is the Value of a Transplant?



# The Sale of Kidneys – What to do

- ▶ Status quo - prohibition
  - Likelihood of ongoing unregulated black-market
  - increasing waiting list and poorer outcomes
  
- ▶ Regulated sales in the local market
  - Can it be ethically supported?
  - If so under what circumstances?
    - ▶ 52% - 70% public supported sales\*
    - ▶ Lesser acceptance by medical personnel\*

\*Kittur Lancet 1992;338;1441

\*Guttman and Guttman J Med Ethics 1993;19:148