



September 27, 2013

Trevor Ruthenberg MP
Chair
Health and Community Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Ruthenberg,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide commentary on proposed changes to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 and in particular changes to the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979.

By way of background Transplant Australia is the national community stakeholder promoting organ and tissue donation and transplantation as a life-saving transformation for patients facing end-stage organ failure.

We have over 3,000 members across Australia and an extremely active committee in Qld led by kidney recipient and advocate, Mr Matty Hempstalk.

Mr Hempstalk has recently been elected as Chairman of Transplant Australia's Sports Committee.

The Committee oversees the conduct of transplant sports in Australia including the Australian Transplant Games and Australia's participation in the World Transplant Games. Queensland proudly hosted these world games in 2009 and the Qld Government was an enthusiastic sponsor of these Games.

As part of our promotional work we advocate for family discussion regarding organ and tissue donation and for Australians to register their consent to donation on the Australian Organ Donation Register.

In terms of your Government's review Transplant Australia supports the changes to broaden the definition of senior available next of kin and you have our support.

We consider it of merit to include step parents, step siblings, etc., in these expanded definitions while the multi-cultural and Aboriginal areas are also worthwhile including community elders or Tribal leaders. If it doesn't already exist, a method of allowing any individual to transfer their delegations of authority should be considered.

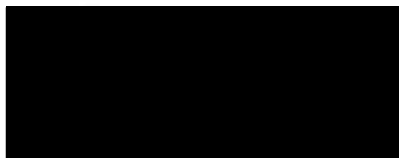




In terms of our support for the Australian Organ Donor Register we would also like to stress the importance of respecting the decision of Australians to register their informed consent for donation through this register. This 'first person' authorisation should be paramount and respected by families and health care workers when considering donation, ensuring that the donor had not changed their mind between giving consent and their death.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide commentary on these proposed changes and would encourage the Qld Government to continue to support the National Reform Package in organ and tissue donation. It is achieving significant results and improvements in donation and this is benefiting hundreds of Australians every year with the greatest gift of all – the gift of life.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Alan Amodeo OAM

Chairman, Transplant Australia

