

Submission No 14

Spec 20.1

Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee  
Parliament House, Cnr George & Alice Streets  
Brisbane Qld 4000

RECEIVED

8th June 1999

Dear Committee

Re: Transplantation and Anatomy Amendment Bill 1998

I would like to make a few comments on the proposed amendment.

1. *Informed and definitive donor consent*

Whereas the amendment proposes giving legal standing to marking the organ donor space on the driver's licence, I would suggest that before this organ donor space is ticked that the individual driver signs a form stating that organ donation has been discussed with the next of kin or family.

This would initiate discussion with relatives at a time when they are not 'distraught and emotional after the death of a loved one', thus reducing the emotional objections to donation.

2. *the availability of information to potential donors*

Much more public education is necessary. Education covering all aspects of donation, transplantation, follow up and support for both donor families and recipients needs to be done starting with school children.

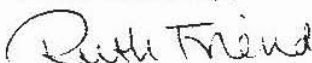
3. *the accommodation of relatives' wishes*

When relatives are better informed and have discussed the issue of organ donation with their next of kin (as outlined in 1. above) their wishes are more likely to be based on reason rather than emotion.

Another aspect of relatives wishes is that of many donor families who have expressed a desire to have contact with the recipient. I acknowledge that this would need to be sensitively managed with consent and counselling on both sides. I would therefore suggest that within certain guidelines the possibility of communication between the donor and recipient become an option. If this became a possibility I know of some donor family members who would be giving more positive support to organ donation.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter,

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Friend R.N.  
Donor Mother