



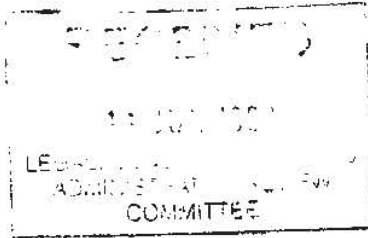
Submission No 23



**PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL  
and DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICE**

Ipswich Road  
Woolloongabba Qld 4102  
Brisbane Australia  
Telephone (07) 3240 2111  
Facsimile (07) 3240 5577

ENQUIRIES Level 7 Acute Block  
PHONE +61-7-3240-2646  
FAX +61-7-3240-5454  
OUR REF  
YOUR REF



Thursday, June 10, 1999

**RENAL TRANSPLANT  
UNIT**

**DIRECTOR**  
Dr David Nicol  
Ph +61-7-3240-5562  
Email: d.nicol@uq.edu.au

**NEPHROLOGISTS**  
Dr Carmel Hawley  
Ph: +61-7-3240-2625  
Email: hawleyc@health.qld.gov.au

Dr Russell Rigby  
Ph: +61-7-3240-2193  
E-mail: rigbyr@health.qld.gov.au

Dr Scott Campbell  
Ph: +61-7-3240-7488  
Email: campbellsb@health.qld.gov.au

Dr David Johnson  
Ph: +61-7-3240-7699  
Email: johnsond@health.qld.gov.au

Dr John Burke  
Ph: +61-7-3240-7488

**SURGEONS**

Dr Anthony Griffin  
Ph: +61-7-3240-2336  
Email: griffin@health.qld.gov.au

Dr Daryl Wall  
Ph: +61-7-3240-2037

Dr John Quinn  
Ph: +61-7-3832-4629  
Email: drjqquinn@ozemail.com.au

Dr Peter Woodruff  
Ph: +61-7-3831-2294  
Email: peterwoodruff@compuserve.com

**WARD A7 NPC**  
Ms Joan Allen  
Ph: +61-7-3240-5131

**AMBULATORY SERVICE**  
Ms Robbie Baird  
Ph: +61-7-3240-2615

**SOCIAL WORKERS**  
Ms Rae Smith  
Ph: +61-7-3240-7180

Ms Cathy Martin  
Ph: +61-7-3240-

**DATA MANAGER**  
Allison Brown  
Ph: +61-7-3240-7153  
Email: brownam@health.qld.gov.au

**RESEARCH NURSE**  
Kirsten Franzen  
Ph: +61-7-3240-5352  
Email: franzenk@health.qld.gov.au

**APPOINTMENTS**  
Ph: +61-7-3240-2615  
Ph: +61-7-3240-2772

Mr. Gary Fenlon MLA  
Chair of the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr. Fenlon

**INQUIRY INTO THE TRANSPLANTATION AND ANATOMY AMENDMENT BILL  
1998.**

The Renal Transplantation Unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital has major reservations about the proposed amendments to the current legislation. We are concerned that the proposed changes may be unworkable, and their effects unpredictable. It is even conceivable that the proposal, while well intentioned, may actually reduce the number of organs available for transplantation. These possibilities need to be further evaluated before implementing the proposals.

If the Drivers License became a binding statement of intention or refusal to donate organs, those who were undecided at the time of license renewal would be likely to select "NO" on their license. Even if they subsequently gave further consideration to the issue and discussed it with their family, they would be unlikely to alter their license until it was due for renewal in five years time. Telling their family of their intentions would no longer be adequate. Conversely somebody who indicated on their license that they were prepared to donate organs, but subsequently changed their mind would need to go to replace their license. If they didn't we could potentially face the very difficult situation of a drivers license saying "YES", but the family saying "NO, they changed their mind and told us but haven't gotten around to replacing their Drivers' License."

At present the next of Kin do not actually "consent" to the removal of organs so much as to affirm that it was the wish of the deceased person. Further efforts to encourage people to consider the issue of organ donation and to tell their family of their wishes may be of greater benefit than an attempt to get people to commit their intentions on their Drivers License. The Drivers License while providing a useful guide to a person's intentions, is not a reliable enough tool to forcibly override a family's account of their loved one's views. Our Unit cannot support the current proposed amendments to the Act.

Yours faithfully

**DR CARMEL HAWLEY  
DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF NEPHROLOGY**

**DR DAVID NICOL  
DIRECTOR  
TRANSPLANT DEPARTMENT**

