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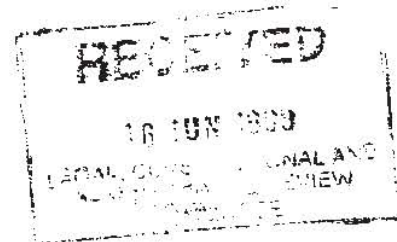
Submission No 28



The Prince Charles Hospital & District Health Service

Enquiries to: Mr Philip Sheedy
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File Number:
Our Reference: JC:JH
Your Reference:

Mr Gary Fenlon MLA,
Chair,
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee,
Parliament House,
George Street,
BRISBANE, Q 4000



Dear Mr Fenlon,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the proposed legislation regarding the Transplantation and Anatomy Amendment Bill 1998.

As you would be aware, staff at The Prince Charles Hospital have substantial experience in dealing with patients and relatives, with regards the donation of organs and their subsequent use in life sustaining transplantation.

We would support the sentiments of the Member's speech which was forwarded with your letter regarding the shortage of organs available and the need to address this problem, and welcome community discussion and debate on the issue.

In essence, whilst we encourage all endeavours to seek strategies to improve organ donation, the proposed amendment to the Bill regarding a change to the legal standing of the "tick" in the box on a driver's licence referring to organ donation we believe is not an option.

Our major concerns are regarding the absence of processes for:-

- informed consent at the time of the decision making
- deciding which particular organs and/or tissues they wish to donate
- recording a change of decision previously made.
- consulting the family (next of kin) and involving them in the decision making, essentially denying them compassionate, ethical and sensitive treatment as stated by the NHMRC in its 1996 recommendations.

We would instead prefer to see further development and financial support for initiatives such as Queensland Health's "Queenslanders' Donate", which is aimed at providing the education, promotion and counselling of patients, relatives and staff.

The need to address this critical issue is paramount and all strategies need to be discussed and debated in the public forum. We however, do not support the strategy as outlined in the

amendment. We look forward to hearing of the Bill's progress and the results of the submission process.

Thank you once again for inviting us to comment on the amendment and we would be happy to be involved in future discussions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Sheedy', written over a horizontal line.

(Philip Sheedy)
District Manager

11 June 1999.