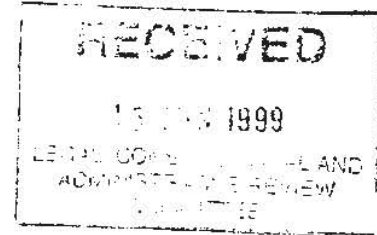


Submission No 30

Spec 25-1-



DONOR TISSUE BANK
• OF VICTORIA •



8 June 1999

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

Dear Mr Fenlon

Re: Inquiry into the Transplantation and Anatomy Amendment Bill 1998

I write this submission to your committee in my capacity as President of the Friends of the Donor Tissue Bank of Victoria.

The Friends of the Donor Tissue Bank was formed in 1995 in response to the needs of donor families. Our web address is: <http://info.vifp.monash.edu.au/dtbv/>

The aims of the Friends are:

- promote community awareness of the benefits of tissue donation and transplantation
- provide community education programmes in order to raise the profile of tissue donation
- develop a self-help and/or grief support network for donor families
- lobby for legislative changes which recognise the needs of donor families

These aims are consistent with the private member's bill and obviously we strongly support his submission.

The majority of our members have been through the heart breaking decision to donate tissue from a recently deceased family member. Knowing the wishes of the deceased person helped us, but it would have been far less traumatic if the decision wasn't placed in our hands.

We recognise a legal will whereby a person has the right to dispose of his/her possessions in whatever manner they choose and yet we still do not recognise the right of a person to choose how their tissue is to be used.

A precedent has already been set in legislation by giving women the right to have abortions. I do not want to enter into moral arguments and I know that many people may not personally support this legislation, however it is legal for a woman to have control over her own body and abort what is in effect, living tissue.

I believe that donating organs and tissues after death is a far less controversial topic and one that deserves to be enshrined in law. It is incredible that a person may choose in life to donate his/her tissue and when death occurs, relatives may override that decision. This is not consistent with the legal issues I have mentioned above.

Should you wish to discuss this further, I may be reached on (03) 9349 1899.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carol Burnett', written in black ink.

Carol Burnett
President - Friends of the Donor Tissue Bank of Victoria.