



25 MAY 1999 **Minister for Health and Human Services**

Submission No 37

The Hon Gary Fenlon MLA
Chair, Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee
Legislative Assembly of Queensland
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QUEENSLAND 4000

Dear Mr Fenlon

Thank you for your letter of 5 May 1999 concerning a private members Bill which proposes amendment to Queensland's Transplantation and Anatomy Act to provide that a person's consent to be an organ donor as indicated on that person's drivers licence should become that person's legal consent to be an organ donor after his or her death.

I have read the proposed legislative amendment and the second reading speech, in conjunction with a report I recently received from the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council advising of the success of the South Australian trial of the modified Spanish model of organ donation, which commenced in that State in 1996.

I support the general intention as expressed in the second reading speech that endeavours should be made in all States to increase the rate of organ donation. The South Australian experience and the increased donation rate in that State could be set as a preliminary target.

Clarification of the legal status of a consent to organ donation provided at the time of renewal of a person's drivers licence is one step towards achieving that broader objective.

It is my understanding that the subject of organ donation will again be discussed by Health Ministers, who are to meet shortly at the Australian Health Ministers' Conference. It would seem that the private members Bill could be a topic of discussion for Ministers with the aim of achieving, as far as is possible, a coordinated national approach to this and other matters relating to organ donation.

I have invited my Ministerial colleagues the Attorney General and the Minister for Transport, to comment on the Transplantation and Anatomy Amendment Bill currently being considered by the Queensland Legislative Assembly, as each of those Ministers has a portfolio interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Judy Jackson MHA
Minister