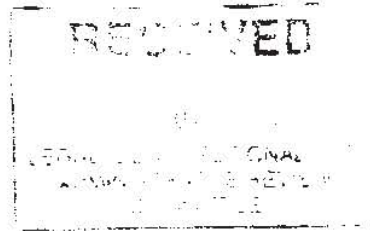




Spec 2
Submission No 38

- 9 JUN 1999

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



My ref: 70308

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

Dear Mr Fenlon

Inquiry into the Transplantation and Anatomy Amendment Bill 1998

Thank you for your letter dated 5 May 1999 regarding Queensland's Transplantation and Anatomy Amendment Bill 1998 and the opportunity to provide information on the current donor system in place in Western Australia.

Transport is the agency responsible for driver and motor vehicle licensing in Western Australia. As a community service, Transport provides a facility for Western Australian driver licence holders to nominate on their driver's licence whether they wish to be listed as an organ donor. The process is as follows:

- A Western Australian driver can nominate to become an organ donor either on application for a new driver's licence or upon renewal of an existing driver's licence simply by ticking a box on the relevant form and appending a signature.
- Upon receipt of the signed form, Transport enters the organ donor status on the driver licensing database. Any driver's licence issued to the customer is endorsed with the Organ Donor symbol.
- Organ donor information from the driver licensing database is transferred to a central organ donor registry at the QEII Medical Centre on a daily basis. Data transferred includes full name of donor, residential address, date of birth and gender.

To assist in attracting people to become organ donors, Transport includes a "Question and Answer" section on organ donation in their "Drive Safe Handbook for Western Australian Drivers." Within this section, potential organ donors are urged to inform their family of their decision to become an organ donor. This is to ensure that the family will give permission for the organ donation to take place.

Transport also provides organisations such as the Kidney Foundation with the opportunity to insert information regarding organ donation into regular mail outs of driver licence renewals.

As described above, Transport facilitates the identification of potential organ donors and provides organisations with the opportunity to promote this important community service. There is no legal obligation on the customer to donate organs through the endorsement of their driver's licence. Additionally, there is no legal requirement for relatives to abide by the endorsement on the driver's licence.

Transport is currently undergoing extensive licensing database development and it is unlikely that any major changes to the organ donation policy in Western Australia could be accommodated until development is complete.

I trust these comments are useful for your consideration of Queensland's Transplantation and Anatomy Amendment Bill 1998.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Murray Criddle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Murray Criddle, MLC
MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT