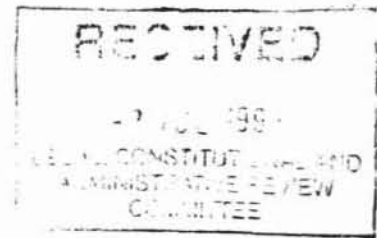


Submission NO46



22 June 1999

Mrs J. Gamin  
Member for Burleigh

Dear Mrs Gamin,

Re our recent telephone conversation re Organ Donor Shortage, I hereby submit the following for discussion with your Committee.

I believe that when a person answers "Yes" to Organ Donation and ticked on his/her driver's licence, then at that time, he/she is made aware that it is compulsory to discuss that decision with his/her parents or next-of-kin, and let the next-of-kin know that to donate organs is their specific wish and that be adhered to at the time of their death.

I am involved with Transplant Recipients plus families of Organ Donors. One recipient I know was in a position of kindly donating her daughter's organs and then 15 years later, she herself needed a heart transplant and got one. She is not the only recipient/donor I know.

So if the general public could be aware that some day they themselves or even their children or grandchildren may need a transplant, I'm sure the "Compulsory" Law would apply.

At the last World Transplant Games in Sydney nearly 2 years ago, I took a photo of the 60 or so children (aged 4 - 14years) who were all recipients of organs, and to see them alive and happy, brought tears to, not only, my eyes. They all would have died had it not been for donor organs. I couldn't help but think of my own children and grandchildren. One little 4 year old recipient was on TV that night and the interviewer said, "I believe you were in hospital when you were 2 years old, and what did you get in hospital?" The little boy, very matter of factly, said, "My heart", in such a way as to say, "Doesn't everyone get a new heart when they need one". I so much wish that was the case here in Australia - everyone should be entitled to a quality of life, called by the Transplant Assn. as "The Gift of Life". We have the best surgeons in the World with the highest success rate, here in Australia, but for a country with all those qualities, we are amongst the lowest for organ donations - it just does not add up.

I wish to submit the above in its entirety to your Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion, and hopefully increase the number of donor organs.

"Don't take your Organs to Heaven - Heaven Knows we need them here!"

Yours faithfully,  
M. G. Ramsden  
M.C. RAMSDEN (mes)