



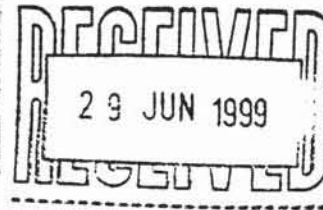
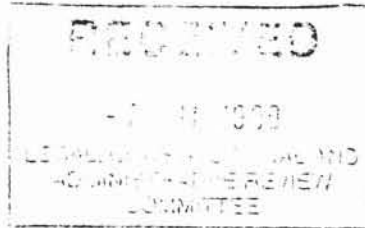
NORTH WESTERN ADELAIDE HEALTH SERVICE

Submission No 50



Spec 20-1

TM:cr  
c/finlon  
☎ (08) 8222 6668  
Facsimile (08) 8222 6026  
Email: gruss@tqehsmtp.tqeh.sa.gov.au



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 1999

Mr G Finlon MLA  
Legislative Assembly of Queensland  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Finlon

**RE: Enquiry into the Transplantation and Anatomy Amendment Bill 1998**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the amendment to the Transplantation and Anatomy Act for 1979 for Queensland.

If I understand the proposed amendment correctly it serves to give legal standing to a signature on the donor card indicating the wishes of the donor to allow organ donation to occur.

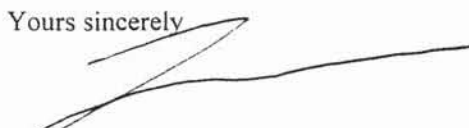
There seems to me little or no advantage in the passage of this amendment given the following:

1. No transplant donor surgeon in Australia is prepared to proceed with procurement unless they are secure in the knowledge that the donor family are supportive.
2. The influence of a signed donor card is already considerable on enabling or empowering the donor family to make a difficult decision.
3. In the event where the donor family is of a contrary view to the express wishes of the donor (as certified on an organ donor card), there is no counter to the family's argument that there had been a late change of mind, or that the card was initially signed under some duress or outside influence.

For these reasons I do not believe the amendment suggested is likely to be of any impact on the Queensland State organ donor rate.

King regards,

Yours sincerely

  
**Timothy H Mathew**  
DIRECTOR RENAL UNIT

