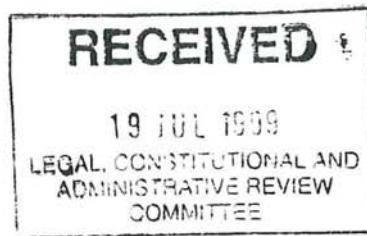


01 July 1999



**Queensland Branch of Australian  
Medical Association**

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**The Research Director**  
Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
**BRISBANE 4000**

Submission No 53  
Spec 201

**Dear Ms Newton**

The Association thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the *Transplantation and Anatomy Amendment Bill, 1998*.

AMAQ is supportive of the proposed change, conditionally upon patients giving informed and definitive consent to being an organ donor. The Association would suggest that a strategy to facilitate informed consent would be to have volunteer councillors attending drivers' licencing registries, to ensure that people understand the implications of making a notation on their driver's licence in accordance with the proposed amendment. Retired medical practitioners, for example, would be an excellent resource to fill these volunteer roles and to co-ordinate with the Department of Transport from the point of view of basic training and information regarding basic counselling.

A second strategy to achieve informed consent would be to have an appropriate indication included in a person's advance health directive. In order to avoid disputes with family members who might not agree with a person's wish to become an organ donor, the Association feels it would be useful to have an "Organ and Tissue Donation" section included in advance health directives. This section could include advice as to the necessity for continued ventilation for several hours after death has occurred, for organ donors, and a statement to the family confirming the patient's wishes for organ and tissue donation.

The Association thanks you for the opportunity to submit comment on this important legislative amendment. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact the writer or Susan Wareham, Manager Planning and Policy, on (07) 3872 2222.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B WENCK".

**DR B WENCK**  
President