Submission number: 002

Email received from: Chris Shaw
Date received: 20 July 2008

Dear Madam

Both myself and my wife are registered organ donors through the Federal Government system.

However, to improve the system, I would like to suggest the following changes:

If a possible donor has a current driver's licence on which it is indicated that they are a donor, the law should be changed to deem this as sufficient consent for the organs/tissue to be used. The relatives of the prospective donor should not have the power to override this consent.

To secure the system, the driver's licence holder should be provided with a statement at each renewal time reminding them of the binding nature of their decision. Further, it could be an opt out system that requires the licence holder to tick a box to opt out of being a donor. Although, I understand that this may be more controversial.

It may also assist if the subject of Organ and Tissue donation was part of the social sciences course in high school – just a couple of hours of instruction and discussion on the pros and cons may assist students in understanding the important role that they can undertake in improving the lives of others.

Yours faithfully

Chris Shaw