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To whom it may concern,

After reading an article in my local paper I would like to take the opportunity to have my say on DONOR IDEAS SOUGHT headed by Karen Struthers of the Organ and Tissue Donation programme QLD.

3 years ago my mum had a double lung transplant in Sydney NSW after she was diagnosed with Emphysema. She was told she would only live another couple of years after that.

NOW we can't stop her.

The transplant has been so much of a success that it even has the doctors baffled as why she is so fit and healthy with NIL complications.

At the time and up until 12 months ago I was not an organ donor.

After moving from Perth to Brisbane 12 months ago I had to review my drivers licence and was asked if I wanted to be an organ donor. I declined once again BUT took a broucher from the main roads department and thought about it.

I actually spoke to my mum that night and was telling her about my licence etc and she told me things about the organ/tissue donation that I was so **unaware** of.

Years ago my best friend's mother was a head nurse at our local hospital. After we got our drivers licence "L"'s she advised us not to be organ donors as when patients came in after accidents that were life threatening the nurses would look at the database and if the person had a 50/50 chance of surviving they would let the patient quietly go and use there organs. NOW THIS WAS 20 YEARS AGO and I have since found out that this was not the case.

My mother explained to me simply that a person has to be on life support for a period of 30 days etc and that tests have to be done to ascertain whether the patient is compatible with a organ receiver. Well this changed my way of thinking. I just assumed that things were taken straight away and that was it.

What I am trying to suggest is that the QLD parliament needs to advertise the way in which the procedure is done and how things are NOT as simple as taking body parts etc as we might think straight after a car accident etc.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION are the key to making anyone realise the process and procedures to becoming an actual donor.

Also I know that money does talk **BUT** if there was a monetary figure put on being a donor, ie % off your health insurance or Medicare levy than PEOPLE MAY WANT TO BECOME A DONOR. Let this type of thing be linked to the Medicare card account and if the person removes herself/himself off the donor listing than they revert back to going rate of insurance/Medicare levy.

Simple but effective ways of getting more Australians behind Australians to make this country live long and prosperous.

I hope my suggestions will be heard or at least used to help this great campaign.

Cheryl Picot