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Email received from: Paula Campbell  
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**Paula Campbell**

Saturday, 9 August 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to express my views regarding organ and tissue donation procedures to the Select Committee.

*1 (a) Given the relatively low organ and tissue donation rates in Queensland, should a system of presumed consent or 'opt-out' for organ and tissue donation be introduced in Queensland?*

Yes.

*1 (b) If so,*

- *should presumed consent for removal of organs and tissue:*
  - i. *be absolute, or should further recourse be required to the wishes of relatives and/or legal guardians in this decision.*

It should be absolute.

- ii. *apply to all persons, specifically considering the age, decision making capacity, cultural and religious beliefs of the person? If not, what exemptions and safeguards should apply?*

It should apply to all persons over 18 years of age, of sound mind. If not, request next of kin's instructions. Cultural and religious beliefs should be taken into consideration after full inspection of validity of those traditions and teachings. A citizen should still feel the need to balance their own beliefs with that of their teachings and choose themselves.

- iii. *allow these organs and tissue to be used for other purposes such as research?*

If these organs and tissues cannot be transplanted, as a first priority, they should then be offered to research facilities.

- *What mechanisms should be put in place to enable persons to explicitly register their objection to their organs and tissue being removed?*

Education in high school, then an explanatory letter accompanying their enrolment papers. If they want to refrain, they then apply for objection applications.

- *What would be the implications, including financial implications, of introducing a system of presumed consent for organ and tissue donation on the operation of all existing legislative, administrative and governance frameworks, including in other jurisdictions.*

The health department should oversee assumed registrations from the Electoral Roll. The cost would be recoverable from savings in the medical care the recipients would otherwise have incurred on the Health Department.

- *What, if any, other matters should be considered in the regulation of this issue?*

Should those who refuse to donate their organs, then not be eligible to receive organ and tissue transplantation? Should criminals who are not reformed, or who are serving a life sentence, be eligible to receive organ or tissue donations? Should organs be shared interstate if this is only a Queensland register?

*2 In addition to the issue of presumed consent for removal of organs and tissue, are there any additional options that should also be considered to increase public awareness of and improve the organ and tissue donation rate in Queensland?*

Ongoing, effective public education is possible and could be part of the Physical Education in schools.

Regards,

Paula Campbell