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Terms of Reference 2. Section 4.8

I would like to make two comments in relation to living donations that I believe will help reduce the number of people in Queensland awaiting a kidney transplant.

The first is very simple, it is ensuring that all Urologists and General Surgeons in Queensland hospitals are aware that if they remove a kidney from a live person for medical reasons, and that kidney is healthy, it can be donated to a person that is not known to the patient. Unlike the current system where voluntary live organ donations to a stranger is not permitted, it is permitted when a kidney is removed for medical reasons. I was informed by a person in the renal transplant unit in Brisbane that a lot of doctors are unaware that this can be done. My urologist at Royal Brisbane Hospital was not aware that this was an option.

Secondly I believe that live voluntary live organ donations to strangers should be permitted, however not for financial gain. I have a condition called Hydronephrosis. It is a condition I have had for ten years and it appears that it is hereditary. I have been in hospital countless amounts of times and am in pain more often than not. I have been requesting for a long time to have my right kidney removed to fix this issue but my urologist refuses to remove it as it is "healthy and functioning." I would like to have the opportunity to have more of a say in managing my own health and having the chance to help someone else at the same time, but I'm not allowed. Regardless of whether I had this medical condition or not, I would be the first person to put my hand up and offer a kidney to a stranger if it was permitted. I am a registered organ donor, a registered bone marrow donor and I donate blood every three months.

I hope my comments will help in some way.

Kind Regards

Martina Mitchell
QLD