

# ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales

## Queensland State Committee



15 August 2008

Ms Sue Cawcutt  
Secretariat Parliamentary Select Committee  
Organ and Tissue Donation  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sue,

Thank you for an opportunity for the College to provide information to this review. The College as you are aware does have a direct interest in this area through its surgeons and in particular its Transplant Surgeons.

You will note the attached letter from the transplant surgeons indicates that they wish to remain neutral in this debate. However the Queensland State Committee of the College would like you to consider carefully whether there is the available resource capacity in the healthcare system to both cope and utilise the additional organs which could become available if an opt-out model is implemented.

The College surveyed its membership in Queensland and received a number of responses (45) to the questions posed. Sixty percent (27) of respondents were in favour of an opt-out system and 40% were not (17), one was neutral. Of the 27 in favour, 21 responded further and of those 16 believed it should be absolute.

The College is the peak surgical body responsible for education and training of surgeons and the maintenance of surgical standards. The College firmly believes the matter should be resolved within the public arena and the responses sought and listed above from its membership should be considered as public responses.

Regards,

pp Dr Richard Lewandowski  
Chair, Queensland State Committee

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# QUEENSLAND LIVER TRANSPLANT SERVICE

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6 August 2008

Consensus statement on behalf of The Queensland Liver Transplant Service and the Surgeons of the Queensland Renal Transplant Service at Princess Alexandra Hospital.

## Review of Organ and Tissue Donation Procedures Select Committee

Thank you for asking our opinion regarding this important topic of presumed consent for organ donation.

While we support measures to increase donor awareness, we cannot make specific comment regarding the methods used to increase organ donor numbers. As transplant physicians and surgeons, it would be a conflict of interest for us to advocate for one method or another.

Ultimately we feel that any decision made on this issue should reflect the opinion of the public at large.

Please note, this statement does not reflect the opinions of the Renal Transplant Medicine Department of the Queensland Renal Transplant Service. Their view should be sought separately.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kellee Slater', is written in black ink.

Dr Kellee Slater  
Liver Transplant Surgeon Princess Alexandra Hospital

For  
Prof Steve Lynch  
Director  
Queensland Liver Transplant Service  
PAH

Dr David Nicol  
Director  
Urology and Renal Transplant Services  
pah