



support ● network

SUBMISSION TO REVIEW OF ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION PROCEDURES SELECT COMMITTEE

We wish to recognize the efforts of our immediate past president, Janelle Colquhoun, in bringing the issue of organ donation to public attention.

Whilst KSN does not have a formal position on any one particular approach to raising the rate of organ donation, we acknowledge that Janelle's support for the 'opt-out' system does indeed reflect the view of many of our members in Queensland.

KSN is of the firm opinion, however, that the rate of organ donation **MUST** be increased as a matter of urgency, and that all options to achieve this must be considered. Therefore we support the general thrust of currently proposed government initiatives.

KSN also believes that, as a first step, immediate action must be taken to improve the current system.

From 27 years of experience in supporting people affected by kidney disease, we believe that some of the main barriers to organ donation include:

- Community awareness and attitudes
- Translating donor intentions into actual sign-up and registration
- Family support for donor wishes
- Support for live donors

We believe that the following actions could have a major impact upon organ donor levels if addressed as a matter of urgency at the state level.

- Widespread community and general practitioner education programs
- More accessible and relevant donor registration points
- Greater access to counselling services for live donors, recipients and carers
- Increased supply of affordable accommodation close to transplant centres
- Standardised, simplified and adequate levels of PTSS (Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme) allowances for live donor and transplant recipients

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