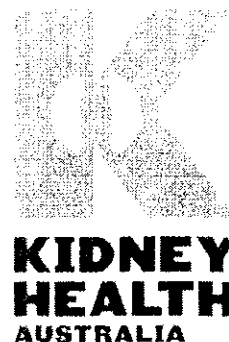


September 15, 2008

Review of Organ & tissue Donation Procedures Select Committee  
Parliament of Queensland  
Corner George and Alice Streets  
Brisbane QLD  
4000



To The Review of Organ & tissue Donation Procedures Select Committee,

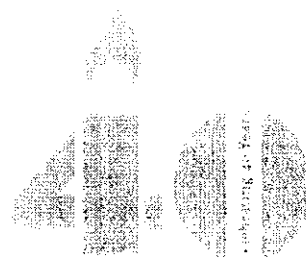
Thank you for your request for comment on the July 2008 Issues Paper examining organ and tissue donation processes.

As you are aware, Kidney Health Australia is a national not-for-profit organization promoting kidney and urinary tract health through research, education, consumer advocacy and health service excellence. Kidney Health Australia funds research to reduce the burden of kidney and urinary tract disease, delivers awareness and education programs to the community, lobbies government on behalf of those with kidney disease and delivers health service programs to kidney patients, their families and carers.

As outlined in the Issues Paper, a large majority of individuals registered on the national organ transplant waiting list are awaiting kidney donations. As a result, Kidney Health Australia is keenly interested in the exploration of strategies to increase the organ donation rate in Australia.

The recent announcement that the Federal Government will dedicate \$136.4 million to boost organ donation nationally is certainly viewed by Kidney Health Australia as a positive step toward addressing issues related to organ and tissue donation. Kidney Health Australia supports the federal government proposal to increase the number of dedicated organ donation staff, beds and infrastructure in hospitals, while increasing national public awareness and education surrounding organ and tissue donation.

Currently, Kidney Health Australia does not formally endorse presumed consent or "opt-out" systems for organ donation, as it does recognize the incredibly complex ethical, social, and medical issues surrounding the adoption of such a system. Kidney Health Australia does, however support discussions such as those being had by your

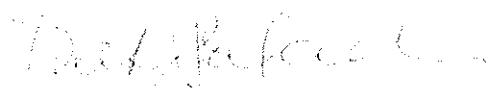


committee which will explore these ethical, social and medical issues. Kidney Health Australia commends the Select Committee for seeking comment from a variety of affected sources, specifically consumers who ultimately are most deeply impacted by such discussions.

Kidney Health Australia will continue to encourage the general public to register their consent to donate organs on the Australian Organ Donor Register and to discuss these decisions with their family and friends

As an organization, Kidney Health Australia looks forward to learning of the results of your inquiry and welcomes any future invitations to discuss organ and tissue donation.

With Kind Regards,



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