



Speech by

KEN TURNER

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

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ORGAN DONATION

Mr TURNER (Thuringowa—IND) (10.15 a.m.): Robyn Gillies approached me because she was in desperate need of a kidney transplant. My organ donor Bill was introduced in Parliament 15 months ago to help save the lives of people like Robyn. When people indicate their willingness to be a donor on their driver's licence, they believe the information gets to the right people. Unfortunately, it does not give Queensland Transport consent to pass the information on, so it sits on their database and is of no use to anybody. In their report on my Bill, LCARC recommended that immediate steps be taken by Queensland Transport to make amendments to the Traffic Act to enable the donor information from their database to be available to hospital staff.

The Minister for Transport and the Minister for Health stated in their response that there is no need for amendments to the Traffic Act as this can be simply addressed with a consent statement on the driver's licence application; something extremely simple—a form printed and distributed to the Queensland Transport customer service centres. I suggest that an information kit be made available at the Queensland Transport customer service centres. The committee also recommended this. At the Australian Health Ministers conference last year, it was agreed to support the central recording of organ donor status on the Transport Department database to be accessible on a 24-hour basis.

Where are we 15 months down the track? One of my staff went to the counter of our local Queensland Transport customer service centre to inquire about becoming an organ donor. She was told that ticking her driver's licence would not be legally binding and that she would have to seek out some other way of making her desires known. She asked about any information regarding organ donation and was handed a brochure from the Australian Kidney Foundation.

Nothing has been put in place that was recommended to be done by Government. As time is the most important thing to the lives of people on waiting lists, why are such simple procedures taking so long? After LCARC's excellent investigations and recommendations, this Government has the opportunity to produce the world's best organ donor system. I call on the Premier to take charge and ensure that there are no further delays.
