

Question on Notice

No. 798

Asked on 14 June 2018

DR C ROWAN asked the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (HON DR S MILES)—

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) of any additional measures that the State Government is considering to increase organ donation numbers and (b) whether the government will consider an opt-out system, as exists in other jurisdictions internationally?

ANSWER

Queensland participates in the national reform program for organ and tissue donation. In 2016, Queensland implemented a strategic plan and a best practice guideline to improve organ donation. The implementation of the plan coincided with a 47% increase in organ donation rates from 2015 to 2016 and again from 2016 to 2017.

Australia uses an express consent or an opt-in model for organ and tissue donation. This approach balances the need for donors with the right of Australians to make an informed choice about donation.

Currently, there is broad support at the Commonwealth and state/territory levels for the retention of the present opt-in model. Any move to an opt-out model would need to have broad national support and application, rather than just being undertaken by individual state and territory governments.