

Submission on Migration Amendment (Overseas Organ Transplant Disclosure and Other Measures) Bill 2023

by David Matas

Organ trafficking and transplant abuse occur under cover in darkness. Perpetrators give out as little information as possible. Participants in the abuse are typically either ignorant or wilfully blind. Shining a light on the abuse is an important aid to ending it.

Without knowledge of transplant tourism, we get caught in a vicious circle. We do little about the problem because we do not know how big it is. We do not know how big it is, because we do little about the problem. Without awareness of transplant tourism, the black market in organs will continue to be pitch dark.

The Migration Amendment (Overseas Organ Transplant Disclosure and Other Measures) Bill 2023 is an important piece of legislation because it accomplishes the difficult task of squaring the circle. With this legislation in place, by requiring collection at entry and publication of data about organ transplantation abroad, Australia will have a much better idea of the volume of transplant tourism from Australia and the places to which transplant tourists go for organs. That knowledge will be invaluable for Australia in addressing and combatting Australian complicity in organ transplant abuse abroad.

.....
.....

David Matas is an international human rights lawyer based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He co-authored with David Kilgour “Bloody Harvest: The Killing of Falun Gong for their Organs.”