

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-400

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AUTHORITY

Senator Sinodinos asked:

It is clear that material differences in performance improvement exists between states, and also between hospitals. What has the OTA done to ensure that standards being implemented are nationally consistent?

Answer:

The Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) is working with states and territories, clinicians and the community sector to deliver the Australian Government's reform agenda to implement a world's best practice approach to organ and tissue donation for transplantation.

Through the Council of Australian Governments, the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council and the Standing Council on Health, states and territories have repeatedly committed to implementing the national reform agenda consistently across the nation.

Prior to 2008, the states and territories had widely varied approaches to organ donation and very disparate donation systems. This lack of consistency precipitated the introduction of the national reform agenda. With each state starting from a different base, it is not unusual that there is variability in state practice at this comparatively early stage of reform.

Variability will always exist to some extent. As late as 2009, more than 20 years after the introduction of their reform agenda, Spain reported variation in donation outcomes across its regions ranging from 27.3 dpmp to 61 dpmp. \*

All key elements of the national reform agenda are being implemented on a nationally consistent basis including but not limited to: performance measurement and analysis; professional education and training of DonateLife Network staff; and roles and responsibilities of DonateLife Network staff at the state Agency and hospital level.

\*Transplant International 6 January 2011

Spanish Experience as a leading country: what kind of measures were taken?

Rafael Matesanz, Beatriz Domínguez-Gil, Elisabeth coll, Gloria de la Rosa and Rosario Marazuela