

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2011-2012, 15 February 2012

Question: E12-401

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION AUTHORITY

Written Question on Notice

Senator Sinodinos asked:

It is clear that NSW, with the largest population and largest proportion of funding, went backwards in 2011. Who is responsible for this? What measures are being taken to improve NSW performance?

Answer:

Despite an overall increase in the national donation rate in 2011 compared to 2010, New South Wales experienced a decline in donation rates. The New South Wales donor per million population (dpmp) rate decreased by 12 per cent in 2011 (10.9 dpmp) compared with 2010 (12.4 dpmp). However, the 2011 donation rate is higher than 2009 (10.0 dpmp) and higher than the baseline (average 2000-2008) of 8.2 dpmp.

Several potential barriers to organ donation have been identified including:

- the ongoing existence of the New South Wales Road Traffic Authority (RTA) Registry;
- hospitals which have unfulfilled potential for increasing donation rates; and
- the existence of a large multicultural population that is not being reached by standard community education.

The Organ and Tissue Authority is working with the New South Wales Government to implement the Australian Government's national reform agenda to increase organ and tissue donation for transplantation. Within the national reform agenda, a multi-level strategy is being implemented with: Local Health Network Chief Executive Officers and hospital General Managers, Intensive Care Unit directors, poor performing hospitals and with the New South Wales Government to advance abolition of the RTA Donor Register. Data on objections by geographic area will also inform a targeted New South Wales communications strategy to engage with specific communities and suburbs where known rates of objection are high.