

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-191

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: Organ Donation

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

- a) Why is it that a key performance target for a national reform agenda is being set part-way through the year as opposed to being set in advance?
- b) How is this target being communicated with those responsible for its delivery?
- c) Based on performance to date, reaching the donor targets is looking unlikely. What shortcoming have you identified?
- d) How do you plan to address these shortcomings?
- e) How is the progress being measured?
- f) Who is it being measured by?
- g) What changes are going to be made to reach the objective that the \$151 million was allocated for?

Answer:

- a) An indicative target was developed at the beginning of the year by the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority (AOTDTA), state Medical Directors and state and territory Health Department representatives. It was agreed by the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council on 8 March and will be submitted to the Standing Council on Health in April for consideration and agreement. Subsequent to this the national indicative 2013 target will be made public.

There have been annual national and jurisdictional indicative organ donation targets in place since the beginning of 2011. In late 2011, in line with the findings of the Mid-Point Implementation Review, state Medical Directors and state and territory Health Department representatives agreed that a target of 23-25 donors per million population (dpmp) is achievable in 5 to 10 years. The AOTDTA has developed indicative growth trajectories and indicative annual targets to achieve 25 dpmp by 2018. Targets are reviewed annually and may be adjusted according to performance and changes in the sector.

- b) The indicative annual national and jurisdictional targets are communicated by the state Medical Director to their DonateLife Network staff in each jurisdiction, who are then responsible for promulgating this information within their hospitals and DonateLife agencies according to local practice.
- c) The national target of 23-25 dpmp by 2018 is achievable. The national reform agenda for organ donation and transplantation is on track with steady growth in deceased donors and the number of transplant recipients over the first three years of implementation.

International experience demonstrates that implementation of a national clinical reform agenda takes time to build momentum and sustain outcomes. It took Spain ten years to reach a sustained outcome of over 30 dpmp; since the commencement of the national reform agenda in 2009 the number of organ donors in Australia has increased by 43 per cent and the number of transplant recipients has increased by 30 per cent. There were an additional 244 transplant recipients in 2012 meaning that one in five transplant recipients last year (23 per cent) received a transplant because of the growth in donors since 2009.

Year to date at end February, there have been 69 donors. This is the highest number of donors for those two months since records began. This is equal to a 64 per cent increase over the same time in 2012.

- d) The key to continued growth in national donation rates is continued rigorous implementation of the national reform agenda. This includes continued activity to implement our strategic priorities of: professional education on conduct of the family donation conversation by trained requestors; implementation of a clinical governance framework to guide the work and performance review of DonateLife Network staff; and focussed engagement with religious and cultural communities to increase family knowledge of members' donation wishes.
- e) The ongoing increase in the number of donors, organs transplanted and organ recipients is measured by utilising the data provided by the Australia and New Zealand Organ Donor Registry which publicly reports every month.
- f) See response to e).
- g) According to the 2012-13 Portfolio Budget Statements, the Australian Government aims to achieve a sustained increase in organ and tissue donation rates by implementing a nationally coordinated, world's best practice approach to organ and tissue donation for transplantation.

The twin objectives of the national reform agenda are to increase the capability and capacity within the health system to maximise donation rates, and to raise community awareness and stakeholder engagement across Australia to promote organ and tissue donation.

The nine key elements of the national reform agenda are:

1. Establish a new national approach and system for organ and tissue donation: a national authority and network of organ and tissue donation agencies;
2. Establish specialist hospital staff and systems dedicated to organ donation;
3. Provide new funding for hospitals;
4. Provide national professional education and awareness;
5. Provide coordinated, ongoing community awareness and education;

6. Provide support for donor families;
7. Establish a safe, equitable and transparent national transplantation process;
8. Establish a national eye and tissue donation and transplantation network; and
9. Undertake additional national initiatives, including living donation programs.

Over the three years since establishment of the DonateLife Network in 2009, the number of organ donors has increased by 43 per cent from 247 donors in 2009 to 354 donors in 2012.

The number of transplant recipients has increased by 30 per cent from 808 recipients in 2009 to 1052 recipients in 2012. This means there were an additional 244 transplant recipients in 2012 and one in five transplant recipients last year (23 per cent) received a transplant because of the growth in donors since 2009.

The number of organs transplanted has increased by 29 per cent from 850 organs transplanted in 2009 to 1099 organs transplanted in 2012. The AOTDTA will continue its efforts to achieve the national target of 23-25 dpmp by 2018.