

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

Question: E13-195

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Senator Richard Di Natale

Question:

- a) Part 3 of the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplant Authority Act 2008 outlines the office and functions of the CEO, which are to formulate, in writing, policies and protocols relating to organ or tissue donation and transplantation matters; and to declare, in writing, standards and codes of practice relating to organ or tissue donation and transplantation matters; and to support and encourage the implementation of policies and protocols and standards and codes of practice. What steps has the current CEO of the Authority taken relating to formulating, declaring and implementing policies and protocols relating to organ and tissue donation? What steps has the CEO taken to support, encourage, conduct and evaluate the skills and knowledge of people involved in organ or tissue donation and transplantation services?
- b) On how many occasions has in their capacity as CEO of the Authority has the current CEO visited hospitals and spoken to doctors, counsellors, administrators, and potential donors' next-of-kin?
- c) What has the CEO of the Authority done to take account of their experiences in writing policies and protocols relating to donation matters? What has the CEO done to update, amend and change the formulating, declaring and implementing policies and protocols relating to organ and tissue donation? The changes and amendments to these policies and protocols must surely have been evolving over the last couple of years, please table these changes and amendments.

Answer:

- a) Both parts of this question are addressed in the one answer.
The Australian Government, through the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority (AOTDTA), aims to implement a world's best practice approach to organ and tissue donation for transplantation by establishing a nationally coordinated approach to achieve a sustained increase in organ and tissue donation rates.

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.

To date the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the AOTDTA, in consultation with key stakeholders has formulated and implemented many policies and protocols related to organ and tissue donation. In the formulation and implementation of these policies and protocols, the CEO has supported, encouraged and contributed to the conduct and evaluation of the skills of the people involved in organ and tissue donation services. In addition, the input from clinical staff and others has influenced the updating, amendment and changes necessary to keep the policies and protocols relevant.

These policies and procedures include, but are not limited to:

- Australian Paired Kidney Exchange program
- National Protocol for Donation after Cardiac Death including the establishment of a review process
- Australian Tissue Bank donation reporting requirements according to an agreed minimum dataset
- Issue of (in conjunction with the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand - TSANZ) the Consensus Statement on Eligibility Criteria and Allocation Protocols for Organ Transplantation from Deceased Donors, including developing a review process in conjunction with the National Health and Medical Research Council and TSANZ
- OTA involvement in the ongoing development, implementation and review of national standard operating procedures for donation staff (in conjunction with the Australian Transplant Coordinators Association).
- The Australian Donor Family Support Framework and associated guidelines for practice by DonateLife staff across Australia, including a review process which is currently being implemented
- DonateLife Community Awareness Grant (CAG) Guidelines to fund AOTDTA endorsed community awareness raising activities.
- DonateLife Professional Educational Package (PEP) targeting all clinicians involved in the donation process in hospitals across Australia. The PEP includes Family Donor conversation Facilitator Guidelines and a protocol for the implementation of the Donor Family Consent Pilot
- Organ Donation Hospital Support Funding to provide a funding contribution to hospitals so that lack of funds will not be a barrier to organ and tissue donation. These funds have been used to open ICU beds or operating theatres, to provide necessary tissue typing and related testing and to fund staff to provide these services in hospitals.
- DonateLife Network Roles and Responsibility Guidelines outlining position requirements for all key role within the DonateLife sector which clearly describe the attributes, objectives and performance measures for each position. See E13000197.
- Clinical Governance Framework and Clinical Practice Improvement Program (CPIP) to improve organ and tissue donation services in hospitals across Australia. The CPIP requires organ and tissue donation staff to routinely and consistently implement a number of proven clinical strategies to increase organ and tissue donation in hospitals, and includes processes for the evaluation of the staff performance
- DonateLife Audit (DLA) and associated policies to ensure that all potential donors are identified in hospitals across Australia and to provide a mechanism for ongoing clinical practice improvement. The DLA provides for an audit of all deaths in Australia that have the potential for donation and for review of the performance of clinicians in identifying donors as part of this process
- Introduction of the GIVE Clinical Trigger in Emergency and Intensive Care Departments across Australia, to provide a simple and accessible prompt to staff for the identification of potential donors in end-of-life situations

- b) The CEO has visited hospitals across Australia to meet with clinical staff to discuss organ and tissue donation. The AOTDTA CEO has not met with the families of potential donors at hospitals as this is not appropriate at that time in a potential donor family's experience.

In addition, the CEO has visited the DonateLife Agencies in all states and territories on more than one occasion and has worked with the hospital based clinical staff at regular all-staff meetings, as well as with the staff involved in facilitating organ and tissue donation in hospitals, those providing donor family support, professional education to their clinical peers and those providing social marketing and community awareness raising to the community.

The CEO also meets with clinical staff from across the network at many of the various meetings and working groups that occur as part of normal AOTDTA/ DonateLife Network operational planning and implementation.

The CEO has attended annual Thanksgiving Services across Australia to support families remembering those who have donated organs and tissues as well as those who have received a transplant. In addition the CEO has met and worked with many donor families across Australia and continues to do so regularly.

The CEO meets on an annual basis with all of the DonateLife Network staff to discuss and review improvements to the organ and tissue donation service provided in hospitals to both clinical professionals and the community.

- c) The development of the policies and protocols that have been identified at a), has been progressively undertaken over the past four years.