

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 13 & 15 February 2013

**Question:** E13-198

**OUTCOME 13:** Acute Care

**Topic:** Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Senator Di Natale

**Question:**

The Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplant Authority Act 2008 tasks the CEO specifically with a number of functions. In performing their function as CEO and paying regard to the requirement to statutory objectives (including promoting a co-ordinated and consistent approach to organ or tissue donation and transplantation matters, improving access to organ or tissue donation and transplantation services, improving the identification of potential organ or tissue donors, minimising waiting times for potential organ or tissue recipients and improving the management of waiting lists for potential organ or tissue recipients):

- a) How does the CEO inform themselves of information regarding performance in these areas?
- b) How does the CEO then go about allocating funds with regard to achieving these stated objectives?
- c) What adjustments and changes are made to grants of financial assistance on the basis of this information? Please provide examples of where this has occurred.
- d) What has the CEO done to discharge your responsibilities, particularly with regard to the statutory objective of improving the identification of potential organ or tissue donors?

**Answer:**

- a) There are multiple ways the CEO informs herself of information regarding performance in these areas. They include:
  - Analysis of verbal and written reports provided according to the terms and conditions of the funding agreements that exist between the OTA and various entities.
  - Analysis of data as reported by the Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Registry (ANZOD); Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplantation Registry; Australia and New Zealand Cardiothoracic Organ Transplant Registry; Australia and New Zealand Liver Transplant Registry; National Pancreas Transplant Registry; Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS), Australian Corneal Graft Registry and the reports provided by the Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand

- Analysis of national, jurisdictional and hospital potential donor data as reported in the DonateLife Audit
  - Chairing or attending any of the many committees and working groups that have been established to implement a coordinated and consistent approach to organ and tissue donation for transplantation including the:
    - Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation (OTA) Advisory Council
    - OTA Audit Committee
    - Jurisdictional Advisory Group comprising State Medical Directors (SMDs), jurisdictional health department representatives and senior OTA officials
    - Clinical Governance Committee comprising SMDs, Agency/Clinical Managers from each state and territory and senior OTA officials
    - Charter Signatories Reference Group of signatories to the National DonateLife Communications Framework and Charter
    - Data and Audit Working Group comprising jurisdictional data and audit officers, as well as representatives with relevant clinical and technical expertise to enhance hospital performance audit and reporting processes
    - Electronic Donor Record Oversight Committee comprising representatives from the Advisory Council, organ/transplantation clinical and nurse practitioners and senior OTA executives
    - Communications Reference comprising jurisdictional communications officers and OTA staff to coordinate and support community awareness and education activities
    - Family Conversation Steering Group comprising representatives from the peak professional bodies and clinicians to provide clinical and technical expertise on specialist training in relation to the family donation conversation.
    - Eye and Tissue Education Implementation Group and the Eye and Tissue Data Implementation Group, established to progress Stage 1 of the Eye and Tissue Reform Report
    - Donor Family Support Implementation Group comprising jurisdictional donor family support coordinators, an independent social worker and representatives from the donation and transplantation sectors
    - Education Coordinators Network comprising jurisdictional education coordinators and OTA staff to coordinate and support education activities provided for health professionals working in the donation and transplantation sectors
    - Transplant Liaison Reference Group comprising membership from across the transplantation and donation sectors.
- b) Throughout the year, the CEO reviews priorities and funding allocations to ensure that there is appropriate alignment of funding and resources to achieve the stated objectives. Taking into consideration the advice received from the sources identified at a), she undertakes a process of consultation with the relevant OTA staff and stakeholders to prioritise and reallocate funding according to the objectives described in the Portfolio Budget Statements, the annual strategic priorities and the nine elements of the national reform agenda.

- c) Funding is either increased or decreased on the basis of the information received and considered as described at a) and b). The funding agreements contain specific guidance as to the mechanism by which these changes can be made. A sample copy of a funding agreement is at Attachment A to Question on Notice E13000197.

Examples of where this has occurred are:

- Reallocation of unspent funds due to unfilled jurisdictional State Medical Director positions to support the expansion of the Professional Education Program across Australia
  - Reallocation of funds for the implementation of elements of the eye and tissue sector reforms that were unspent due to delays in seeking Standing Council of Health endorsement of the report. The funds were used to support the enhancement of the DonateLife Audit tool that is used to identify potential donors and to drive clinical practice improvements in hospitals.
- d) In order to discharge her responsibilities, particularly with regard to the statutory objective of improving the identification of potential organ or tissue donors, the CEO has:
- Implemented a National Protocol for Donation after Cardiac Death to guide clinical staff in the identification and management of potential donors
  - Implemented reform of the eye and tissue sector according to the '*Report on options for more effective eye and tissue retrieval, processing and storage*', to improve the identification of potential tissue donors in the multi-organ and tissue only donation spaces
  - Guided 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 – ATCA)
  - Introduction and management of the DonateLife Professional Educational Package (PEP) targeting all clinicians involved in the donation process in hospitals across Australia. The PEP includes a revised and targeted Australian Donor Awareness Practice training (ADAPT) one day session; a two day Family Donor conversation session and a one day practical Donor Family Conversation workshop.
  - Implementation of 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, which in turn has increased the potential donor pool.
  - Implementation of Position Descriptions for all key role within the DonateLife sector which clearly describe the attributes, objectives and performance measures for each position, including targets for request, consent and conversion of potential to actual donors.
  - Development of a Clinical Governance Framework and Clinical Practice Improvement Program (CPIP) to improve organ and tissue donation skills among clinical staff in hospitals across Australia.
  - Introduction of a nationwide, web based potential donor audit process (DonateLife Audit) 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 reviewing the performance of clinicians in identifying donors.
  - 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.