

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-339

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION FOR TRANSPLANTATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

What is the training given to someone that is labelled a “designated requester”?

Answer:

As set out in E11-338, the current national policy on requesting family consent to organ donation is that requesting consent should be undertaken by an “appropriate requester”. An “appropriate requester” is “a person considered to be sufficiently skilled to undertake discussions about organ donation with the family of a potential donor. This includes organ donor coordinators (or hospital senior registered nurses with donor coordination experience), Fellows of the College of Intensive Care Medicine (i.e. doctors who have specialised in intensive care medicine) and those who have completed a medical Australasian Donor Awareness Program workshop or equivalent (i.e. Transplant Procurement Management, Verble & Worth workshop) in the past 5 years.”

As set out in E11-337, the Organ and Tissue Authority is reviewing the methods for requesting consent currently practiced in Australia and internationally to identify an evidence-based approach to requesting consent. This material will inform the development of advanced training for health professionals who request family consent to organ donation.