

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

Question: E12-165

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: Organ donation

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Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

What is the difference between annual registrations rates i.e. registration on the Australian Organ Donation Register, and consent rates?

Answer:

There is no immediate relationship between population registration numbers on the Australian Organ Donation Register (AODR) and annual consent rates to organ and tissue donation. The first is a measure of intention or consent to donation should the situation arise where the registrant is a potential donor at some point in the future. The second is a measure of consent to donation proceeding over the number of requests made of donor families at the time of death of the potential donor.

Increased registration on the AODR is one indication of the level of community engagement and acceptance of organ and tissue donation.

Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Register (ANZODR) data indicates that the proportion of consenting donors who were registered on the AODR has changed marginally from 29 per cent in 2008 to 31 per cent in 2011.

The major contributor to increasing consent is improvement in the role played by the clinical experts conducting family donation conversations.