

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-005

OUTCOME 13: Acute Care

Topic: AVERAGE WAIT

Written Question on Notice

Senator Carol Brown asked:

Please provide the average wait for people on the Australian organ transplant waiting lists.

Answer:

A single coherent source of average wait list for patients requiring any solid organ transplant is not available.

The median time to transplant for liver, heart and lung(s) is in the order of three to four months.

The average time to transplant for patients who were transplanted with a kidney from a deceased donor is currently 3.7 years. The wait time has trended down in recent years, from a high of 4.4 years in 2005.

Information is not readily available for waiting time for patients transplanted with a pancreas, however as these are one of the less common operations, they would not significantly impact on the overall average time to transplant.

The following information is sourced from independent outcome registries and may not be strictly compatible.

Source	Organ	Measure	Value	Comment
Australian and New Zealand Liver Transplant Registry – 22 nd Report 2010	Liver	Median time to transplant	82 days	Includes patients listed for urgent transplant
Australian and New Zealand Cardiothoracic Organ Transplant Registry – 15th Annual Report 1984-2010	Heart	Median time to transplant	97 days	Transplant operations performed in 2010
Australian and New Zealand Cardiothoracic Organ Transplant Registry – 15th Annual Report 1984-2010	Lung	Median time to transplant	149 days	Transplant operations performed in 2010
National Organ Matching System, special data report at 4 November 2011	Kidney	Average waiting time on dialysis (in years) for patients transplanted with deceased donor kidney	3.7 years	