

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-416

OUTCOME 13: ACUTE CARE

Topic: AUSTRALIAN ORGAN DONOR REGISTER

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Is the Australian Organ Donor Register often accessed after the conversation has already taken place with the family/next of kin being asked about donation?

Answer:

No. The Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR) is accessed to ascertain the registration status of a potential donor to inform discussions with the potential donor's family/next of kin about organ and tissue donation.

This approach is consistent with the policy agreed by the Australian Health Ministers' Conference (AHMC) in January 2005 that, with the establishment of the AODR as the national register of legally valid consent, clinicians will routinely consult the AODR to inform the family/next of kin of whether the potential donor has registered a consent or objection to donation.

This information is provided to the family/next of kin during the course of conversations about organ and tissue donations to inform the family's/next of kin's decision.

This policy has also been endorsed by the National Health and Medical Research Council's Australian Health Ethics Committee (AHEC) and is supported by the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS) in the ANZICS Statement on Death and Organ Donation Edition 3.1; 2010.

The Confidential Donor Referral Form (CDRF) requires confirmation that the AODR has been accessed prior to gaining formal documented consent from the family/next of kin.