

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-417

OUTCOME 13: ACUTE CARE

Topic: AUSTRALIAN ORGAN DONOR REGISTER

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Based on the response to Question E-11-347 from May Estimates, where the funding agreement between the Authority and the jurisdictions are only required to "confirm the Australian Organ Donor Register has been accessed to establish if a potential donor has registered consent or objection to donating organs and/or tissues for transplantation

- a) Why does the Agreement not require the Organ Donor Register to be checked BEFORE the conversation with next of kin takes place
- b) Surely this would be more helpful in informing the next of kin as to the wishes of the potential donor?
- c) What is the benefit in accessing the donor register AFTER the discussion with the next of kin takes place?
- d) What is the percentage of instances where the donor register is accessed before the conversation with the next of kin takes place?
- e) What is the percentage of instances where the donor register is accessed after the conversation with the next of kin?

Answer:

- a) As outlined in E11-416, the 2005 policy agreed by the Australian Health Ministers' Conference (AHMC), and supported by the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS) clinical guidelines, is that the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR) is accessed to ascertain the registration status of a potential donor to inform the discussions with the family/next of kin.

In addition, 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.

The funding agreement between the Organ and Tissue Authority (the Authority) and the jurisdictions enforces this policy by requiring State and Territory DonateLife Agencies to confirm that the AODR has been accessed in order to inform discussions with the potential donor's family/next of kin prior to seeking formal consent to donation proceeding.

- b) Yes.
- c) The AODR is accessed to inform discussions with the potential donor's family/next of kin prior to seeking formal consent to donation.
- d) The DonateLife Audit collects data on the proportion of potential donors where the AODR has been accessed. This data is currently held at a hospital level and is not reported to the Authority in the national dataset. The CDRF reports data to the Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Registry (ANZOD) on the proportion of actual donors where the AODR has been accessed. In 2010 the AODR was accessed for 95% of actual donors to inform the discussions with the family/next of kin prior to gaining formal consent to donation.
- e) Nil. The AODR is always accessed prior to gaining formal consent to donation proceeding.