

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-418

OUTCOME 13: ACUTE CARE

Topic: ORGAN DONORS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Is it true that some jurisdictions are claiming for very marginal potential donors?
- b) Would it not be better to provide funding to states for successful donations?
- c) Does the current funding arrangement not have the potential for abuse by claiming for very marginal potential donors?

Answer:

Organ Donation Hospital Support Funding (ODHSF) is the mechanism for making a contribution to hospitals toward the cost of donor-related activities, over and above those normally incurred for providing end-of-life care. It is not intended that the amount provided will fully reimburse these costs, but reduce the cost sufficiently to ensure that it is not a barrier to organ donation.

- a) The current ODHSF claim tool and the funding agreements provide a definition of what constitutes a potential donor. States and territories are required to keep accurate records of all donations and corresponding claims which the Authority has the right to audit if necessary. Claims for potential donors are also monitored through the DonateLife Audit\*.
- b) ODHSF applies to both actual (“successful”) and potential organ donations.
- c) Please refer to answer a).

\* The DonateLife Audit is a retrospective audit of all deaths in DonateLife Network hospitals. Amongst other things the audit categorises patients as potential and actual solid organ donors.