

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017, 19 October 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000601

OUTCOME: 1 - Health System Policy, Design and Innovation

Topic: Organ Donation - Ludlam Senate QON100

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Di Natale, Richard

Question:

The Minister's answer to QON100 says only limited data is available on Australians receiving Chinese organ transplants, with 53 Australian transplants in China identified for 2001-2014 (via the Australian and NZ Dialysis and Transplantation Registry).

- a) What's the current process for Australians travelling overseas to receive organ transplants?
- b) Why isn't there a register? What are the barriers to establishing a register or process for collecting this data?
- c) Will you undertake to establish one?

Answer:

- a) The Department of Health is not aware of any required process for those Australians who have made a decision to travel overseas for the purposes of procuring an organ for transplantation.

In Australia, organ and tissue donation and transplantation is the responsibility of states and territories and is governed by jurisdictional Human Tissue Acts.

Australia is a signatory to the Declaration of Istanbul and World Health Organizations guiding principles that relate to organ and tissue donation and transplantation. The Declaration of Istanbul was endorsed by the Australian Government's National Health and Medical Research Council in 2011. All organ and tissue donation and transplantation guiding principles condemn 'transplant tourism'.

- b) Where data on overseas kidney transplantation is provided it is reported through the Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplantation Registry (ANZDATA).
- c) The Australian Government provides funding to the ANZDATA for the collection and reporting of data.