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**Health**  
Department for  
Health and Wellbeing

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Legal and Social Issues Committee  
Legislative Assembly  
Parliament of Victoria

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Dear Chair

I refer to your email dated 19 June 2023 regarding the Inquiry into increasing the number of registered organ and tissue donors and request for information regarding the approach in South Australia to organ and tissue donation registration through the drivers licence system.

As requested, I provide this additional information for consideration by the Committee.

South Australia is currently the only jurisdiction in which a person's interest in organ and/or tissue donation after death (intention) is captured through drivers licence arrangements. South Australian residents are prompted to answer an optional question about their interest in registering to become an organ donor as part of both online and manual drivers licence application and renewal processes.

The South Australian Department for Health and Wellbeing recently identified that the organ donation question required standardisation across the manual and online drivers licence application and renewal platforms. Drivers licence registrations are managed by the SA Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT), and we have been working collaboratively with DIT to ensure the current agreed organ donation registration question is consistently updated across all platforms. We expect this process to be completed shortly.

If a person answers YES to the optional organ donation registration question they are informed that an organ donor indicator will be shown on any photo permit or licence issued and recorded on the drivers licence database managed by DIT. Licensees are informed that their details will be provided to the 'Australian Organ Donor Register' (AODR) who may contact them for further details. Information held on the drivers licence database is transferred via encrypted file by officers in DIT to the AODR, monthly. Details provided to the AODR are Client/Licence Number, Full Name, Address, DOB, Gender, and 'Y' Organ Donor Indicator (all licence holders who have indicated YES since the last file was generated).

It is our understanding that drivers licence registrants are identified on the AODR as having registered their 'intent' to become an organ/tissue donor after death. Answering YES to the drivers licence organ donation question records a

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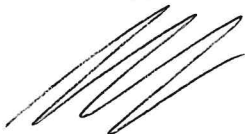
person's intention to become an organ donor but does not complete the AODR registration process. A person is still required to complete their full registration on the AODR by:

- using the Medicare online account through myGov; or
- by completing an online application through the Organ and Tissue Authority; or
- by completing a form and sending it to Services Australia.

As highlighted by the latest figures in the [Australian Donation and Transplantation Activity Report 2022](#) and by the 2018 Ernst and Young [Review of the Australian Organ Donation, Retrieval and Transplantation System](#) (the Review), South Australia continues to be the jurisdiction with the highest proportion of the population registered on the AODR. The Review found evidence that South Australia's organ donor registration rates have been greatly assisted by the continued use of the drivers licensing legacy system. Some stakeholders consulted in the Review highlighted the effectiveness of the licensing system in registering organ donation intent compared to other jurisdictions which rely on the AODR only.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information regarding South Australia's drivers license organ donation registration system for the Committee's consideration. If you require any further information, please contact Amelia Southam on (08) 8436 7062, or at [amelia.southam@sa.gov.au](mailto:amelia.southam@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**DR FAY JENKINS**  
Acting Chief Public Health Officer

19/07/2023