

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

Submission by

Brian Myerson OAM

Kidney/pancreas transplant recipient 19 June 1999

Director and co-founder of ShareLife Australia Limited

Member of NSW IAG (Implementation Advisory Group)

Member of Sydney Local Health District Organ Donation for Transplantation Steering Committee

Dear Committee Members,

**Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority Amendment
(Disclosure of Information) Bill 2023**

I make this submission in my own name and am solely responsible for its contents and opinions.

On 15 June 2023 the Senate referred the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority Amendment (Disclosure of Information) Bill 2023 to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 26 July 2023.

I am extremely disappointed that the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care Ms Kearney is, following the advice of her staff and the Health Department, prepared to continue to deny the rights and liberties of Donor Families and Organ Transplant Recipients.

These two groups have endured incredible hardships and suffering through sickness and death and are being denied the opportunity to divulge information about themselves and their loved ones as and when they wish. No liberal democracy should discriminate against these groups and should protect their basic rights such as freedom of assembly and free speech.

This Bill gives the Minister the opportunity to outlaw the long-standing discrimination these groups have endured to speak and meet freely. As long as the parties consent, the ability to make contact and meet should be made available to them.

I hope to have the opportunity to discuss this very important issue with you during your deliberations.

Kind regards,
Brian

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