

25th June 2023.

RE: Submission - A Bill for an Act to amend the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority Act 2008.

Please find the following being a response to the above-mentioned intent to amend the Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority Act 2008.

I am writing to you as a donor mum and member of Donor Families Australia and other donor and recipient support groups.

Firstly, I would like to point out one of the main roles of the Australian Government is to

Represent the people of Australia. It seems you have forgotten this and lost your way.

I have been informed that this proposed change has progressed without consultation or warning to the most important people this will impact the most, donor families and recipients.

I fail to understand how this very unprofessional, distressing, and cruel decision has been made and who decides to deem it viable.

This is a national disgrace and there is no consideration of the reality of this situation and the devastating impact it will most definitely have on those who are a part of this journey.

This act is not a fair decision to say the least and the repercussions, if passed, (which I certainly hope **will not**), will prove to be catastrophic to the system that currently works and benefits people who have lost their treasured loved ones and for those who have been given a second chance at life due to our donor heroes and their families.

It appears that this is a political stunt and the total lack of consideration relating to humanity and compassion has been lost. Politics has nothing to do with how people choose to grieve or how they choose to connect and share with others and speak their loved one's names.

This is a removal of a basic human right and I believe this is an intent to control something that you appear to know nothing about and obviously, luckily for you, never experienced.

The current system and processes are not broken so why decide to interfere now? The way that communication and sharing is currently done is very safe and secure and any information shared in any way is the purely the decision of the person doing so. No one shares information that they don't want to and are always given a choice to have the power to control how their story unfolds. Donor Families Australia are amazing at what they do and protect everyone at all costs without having to even consider this outrageous act amendment.

I would strongly recommend that you consult with the people directly impacted before implementing such a distressing act. This will cause a national outcry and it is sure to result in a rapid

decline in people wanting to donate organs to save others due to the government control which seems to be becoming the way of this country, unfortunately.

Our heroes deserve to be remembered and how we choose to do this should not be dictated by a government law.

I feel so sad and ashamed of the Australian Government in reference to this subject. Your lack of compassion, empathy and plain common sense has very clearly failed you. This whole act is undoubtedly a risk to our freedoms as Australian people and there should be a great deal of shame on you for creating such a confusing and fear mongering threat.

If it wasn't for my ability to connect with others, communicate, share, not to mention the incredible support provided by groups, I don't know where I would be today on my very personal grief journey.

In conclusion, I ask that you find it in your hearts to reconsider what you are proposing and refrain from deciding to take ownership of our loved one's information. It is just not right, and I respectfully ask that you take responses from those who provide submissions and who are directly impacted very seriously.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Yours sincerely,

A very, distressed, upset, broken-hearted and disappointed donor mum.