

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-330

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION FOR TRANSPLANTATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Can you please provide the “Organ Donation Rate” (potential donors vs successful donations) for each of the last 10 years displayed by year and by state?

Answer:

National data on the organ donation rate (or the conversion rate) does not exist for the last 10 years.

2010 was the first full year of implementation of the national reform agenda for establishing world’s best practice approach to organ and tissue donation for transplantation. As such, 2010 was the first year for which national data on key performance indicators (KPIs) such as request, consent and conversion rates was collected. The Organ and Tissue Authority is therefore able to provide the conversion rate for 2010.

The national conversion rate for Donations after Brain Death in 2010 was 44 per cent. The conversion rate is a measure of the number of brain dead organ donors as a proportion of the potential donors with confirmed or probable brain death. Donations after Cardiac Death (DCD) have been excluded from the calculation as DCD data is yet to be validated.

Data on KPIs has been collected to inform change in clinical practice within the 77 hospitals of the DonateLife Network. This data is provided to the Organ and Tissue Authority by jurisdictions under funding agreements entered with state and territory governments. It could therefore cause damage to relations with states and territories to release jurisdictional request rates at this early stage of the implementation of the national reform agenda without prior consultation and consent from state and territory governments.