

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-341

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION FOR TRANSPLANTATION

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

Within the medical ADAPT training, how long is the training component that specifically deals with the best methods to ask families for donation?

Answer:

Participants in the medical Australasian Donor Awareness Program (ADAPT) workshop are fully qualified doctors who have completed undergraduate or post-graduate medical degrees, interns and residents training in hospitals and who are undertaking specialist training in intensive care medicine or emergency medicine. Successful completion of the medical ADAPT workshop is a mandatory component of the six-year specialist diploma required to become a Fellow of the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand. In addition, already qualified specialists with an interest in becoming an “appropriate requestor” in the organ and tissue donation process (such as intensive care medicine specialists and emergency medicine specialists) can also attend the medical ADAPT workshop. All participants in the program are expected to have a strong understanding of the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Statement on Death and Organ Donation, which is provided as part of the program pre-reading material.

The ADAPT workshop is an eight-hour workshop that provides training and education on both clinical and communication aspects of organ and tissue donation (see E11-340). The majority (approximately two-thirds) of the workshop is dedicated to sensitive communication between doctors and families facing the sudden death of a family member, and training on raising and requesting family consent to donation.

This component of the ADAPT workshop, dealing with skills for requesting family consent to donation, is currently being revised by the Organ and Tissue Authority.

As set out in E11-339, the Organ and Tissue Authority is reviewing the methods for requesting consent currently practiced in Australia and internationally. This material will inform the development of advanced training for health professionals who request family consent to donation. The advanced training will include intensive family conversation workshops which focus on the skills for discussing bereavement and requesting consent.