

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-226

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ORGAN DONATION FOR TRANSPLANTATION

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

When the national reform agenda was launched, and its \$151 million funding allocation announced, it was described to the Australian public as a plan "to establish Australia as world-leader in organ donation for transplantation".

A current member of the advisory council to the Organ and Tissue Authority was quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald three years ago, in 2009, indicating that a good outcome for 2009 would be a donor rate of 20 donors per million of population, or about 440 donors. reference: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/putting-your-heart-into-it-20090403-9qhi.html>

Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said to a journalist in 2010, that he had advised cabinet in 2008: 'Well, we're going to do this because it means a lot for literally thousands of people.' And went on to say: 'So that's my hope, roll the clock on three years and we're out there as world leaders. If not, I've failed but I've tried.'

In 2011, the top 8 countries in the world achieve organ donor rates between 25 and 35 donors per million people. Last year, the dpmp was 15.1, recently revised from previous reports of 14.9, after new population data became available.

In May during Senate Estimates, Ms Flynn responded, on behalf of the Authority, to Senator Di Natale's question regarding deceased donor targets for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015: "The target for this year is 16.3 donors per million population. From there we have been able to work out transplant recipients and organs transplanted as well. We do have the trajectory that takes it out to 2018, when we should achieve 23 to 25 donors per million population. But we will review annually our progress and adjust as we go. So we will issue an annual target and review it each year." Reference:

<http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22committees%2Festimate%2F9d49ebf7-596d-4c10-aebb-5482ec1a344f%2F0002%22>

At what point was the decision taken to revise the publicly stated dpmp target of the national reform agenda?

Answer:

The Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority's 2009-10 Annual Report first identified a national donation target of 16 dpmp by 2012.

In late 2011, as a result of the findings of the Mid-Point Implementation Review commissioned by the Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing, the Hon Catherine King MP, in early 2011, the potential national donation outcome capacity was identified as 23-25 dpmp within 5-10 years.

Utilising this advice and jurisdictional performance data, the 2010-11 donation target of 16 dpmp by 2012 was analysed and revised upwards to 16.3 dpmp. This revision was part of a national donation scoping project to establish specific targets at jurisdictional and national levels for 2012.

In addition, projected growth trajectories were identified with a national target of 23-25 dpmp by 2018. These projected growth trajectories will be reviewed annually taking into consideration national and jurisdictional performance data for the purpose of identifying successive annual targets.

The national donation target of 16.3 dpmp was agreed by the Standing Council on Health (SCoH) in April 2012 and is the current national public target. The SCoH also agreed to the process of annual review as described above.