

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

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

Question: E12-230

OUTCOME 1: Population Health

Topic: ORGAN DONOR RATES

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Number of pages: 1

Senator: Senator Fierravanti-Wells

Question:

Supplementary question to E12- 399:

The 2008 deceased donor rate was achieved prior to commencement of the funding of the Reform Package and was achieved without any additional funding. Please explain why you do not use the organ donation rate achieved in the year ended 2008 as the base year, given the announcement of the reform agenda was made in mid 2008 and the Organ and tissue authority established on January 1st 2009 when additional funds began to be spent.

Answer:

Between 1989 and 2008, Australia's annual organ donation numbers fluctuated between 179 and 259 donors. The average deceased donor outcome per annum was 202 donors. In those 20 years half the annual outcomes were below 200 donors per annum and half were above.

There was no pattern to these donation outcomes over time nor was there any gradual increase to the peak outcome of 259 donors in 2008. In fact, the next highest annual outcome (231 donors) was in 1989.

In light of these facts, and in light of the fact that 2008 was an aberrant year as it was one of only 5 in 20 years that the annual donation outcome exceeded 210 donors (with the majority of remainder being in the early 1990s), the decision was made to use the average of the 2000-2008 period (after advice from the independent Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Register) as a more statistically valid baseline.