



Senator for New South Wales

Minister for Rural Health | Deputy Leader of The

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Review of organ donation and transplantation programme

Tuesday, 2 June 2015

Senator the Hon Fiona Nash
Assistant Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

Updated 02 June 2015

Following the Coalition Government's recent budget allocation of \$10 million of new money towards improving organ donation rates in Australia, Assistant

Minister for Health Fiona Nash has announced a review of the current organ and tissue donation and transplantation programme, with a specific focus on the role of the Organ and Tissue Authority and the wider health system's response.

The review will be undertaken by Ernst and Young, and follows a short study by the Department of Health which was also ordered by the Minister.

"Both Coalition and Labor federal governments have made a significant investment in improving Australia's organ transplant rate," Minister Nash said. "Since then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced a national reform agenda for organ and tissue donation in 2008, around \$250 million has been invested. However, organ transplant rates have not increased as quickly as intended." "In 2008, the number of deceased organ donors was 12.1 donors per million population. The 2014 figure was 16.1 donors per million population.

"Increasing Australia's organ transplantation rate is a complex task. The federal government provides direction and funding but the hospitals are run by the states.

"Less than 1 per cent of people die in circumstances which enable organ donation, which generally requires the person to have died whilst on life support."

In February, Minister Nash called for registered donors to have that vital conversation with their families, to try to ensure the wish to donate organs is honoured by the family in the event the registered donor dies in circumstances which enable organ donation.

"Organ donation is an issue for the whole community and we need the whole community, including governments, to do absolutely everything possible. As such, we need to take a good look at what's working and what isn't; what's successful and where we can improve.

"In the recent budget, we allocated \$10 million of new money to improve organ transplant rates through several initiatives which we believe will have a very positive impact. I'll have more to say about the details



Fiona Nash

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Fiona Nash

October 28 at 5:27pm

Over recent days, as many of you would be aware, I have received some criticism in relation to a condolence speech that was recently given by Senator Glenn Lazarus in the Senate Chamber following the tragic passing of Mr George Bender.

First of all, as I stated on the Q&A program on Monday night I offer my heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mr Bender for their loss.

I would also like to take this opportunity to provide some clarity and bac... [See More](#)

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Fiona Nash

October 25 at 10:46pm

Assistant Minister for
Health

The Senate

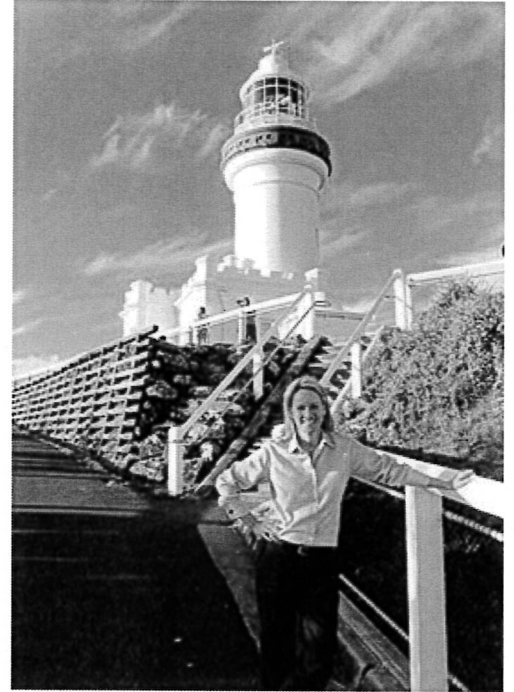
of that soon. "Significant funding has been made available to hospitals and to state and territory health authorities to help them make sure as many opportunities as possible are converted to organ transplants. "The Federal Government has also invested in the national coordination effort through the independent Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority (OTA). "I have spoken to many stakeholders for some time about ways to improve organ donation and transplantation outcomes.

"Following the Australian National Audit Office review of the OTA, which began in July 2014, I asked the Department of Health to undertake a preliminary examination of organ donation. The Department reported back recommending a review of the current organ and tissue donation and transplantation programme, with a specific focus on the role of the Organ and Tissue Authority and the wider health system's response. "Ernst and Young will begin their work in June and a report to me in early August. "Our aim will be to make improvements to boost Australia's performance in this important area and to maximise the benefits from our already significant investment in this space."

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This media release has been updated to reflect the Department of Health website.



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Senator the Hon Fiona Nash
Assistant Minister for Health
Senator for New South Wales
Deputy Leader of the Nationals in the Senate

MEDIA RELEASE

26 May 2015

Review of organ donation and transplantation programme

Following the Coalition Government's recent budget allocation of \$20 million towards improving organ donation rates in Australia, Assistant Minister for Health Fiona Nash has announced a review of the current organ and tissue donation and transplantation programme, with a specific focus on the role of the Organ and Tissue Authority and the wider health system's response.

The review will be undertaken by Ernst and Young, and follows a short study by the Department of Health which was also ordered by the Minister.

"Both Coalition and Labor federal governments have made a significant investment in improving Australia's organ transplant rate," Minister Nash said.

"Since then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced a national reform agenda for organ and tissue donation in 2008, around \$250 million has been invested. However, organ transplant rates have not increased as quickly as intended.

"In 2008, the number of deceased organ donors was 12.1 donors per million population. The 2014 figure was 16.1 donors per million population.

"Increasing Australia's organ transplantation rate is a complex task. The federal government provides direction and funding but the hospitals are run by the states.

"Less than 1 per cent of people die in circumstances which enable organ donation, which generally requires the person to have died whilst on life support."

Many Australians register to donate their organs, but those intentions are not always converting into organ transplants in hospitals at that difficult time when families are asked to agree to uphold the wishes of their recently deceased relative.

Families are failing to uphold the wishes of the deceased who had registered to be an organ donor on 37 per cent of occasions. In February, Minister Nash called for registered donors to have that vital conversation with their families, to try to ensure the wish to donate organs is honoured by the family in the event the registered donor dies in circumstances which enable organ donation.

"Organ donation is an issue for the whole community and we need the whole community, including governments, to do absolutely everything possible. As such, we need to take a good look at what's working and what isn't; what's successful and where we can improve.

"In the recent budget, we allocated \$20 million to improve organ transplant rates through several initiatives which we believe will have a very positive impact. I'll have more to say about the details of that soon.

"Significant funding has been made available to hospitals and to state and territory health authorities to help them make sure as many opportunities as possible are converted to organ transplants.

"The Federal Government has also invested in the national coordination effort through the independent Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority (OTA).

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