



**Australian Government**  
**Organ and Tissue Authority**

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## **Organ and Tissue Authority Board**

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### **Meeting No 5, 26 June 2018**

#### **Communiqué**

The Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) Board (the Board) met in Canberra on Tuesday, 26 June 2018.

The Board endorsed the 2018-19 Strategic Plan: *Progressing Australian organ and tissue donation and transplantation to 2022*. The plan was developed in consultation with the national DonateLife Network leadership team, state and territory health department representatives and OTA staff. It identifies four key objectives and strategies to support the achievement of each objective. The plan also identifies the key areas of focus for 2018-19 which highlight the ongoing commitment to clinical practice improvement in DonateLife Network hospitals; and community engagement to promote awareness of organ and tissue donation, increase donor registration and encourage family discussion.

The Board invited Dr Helen Opdam, National Medical Director to present on alternative consent models. Dr Opdam presented arguments for and against opt-in and opt-out based on international data and highlighted that family consent is integral to donation proceeding in both models. The Board supported the current opt-in model for Australia and agreed to continue monitoring the trends in both opt-in and opt-out countries around the world to ensure that the program we have in Australia is achieving our goal of increasing transplantation through donation.

At the previous meeting, the Board reviewed the OTA's professional education program and supported the OTA to develop a national strategy for professional education into the future, in consultation with the DonateLife Network. Today the Board noted the national professional education plan for 2018-2020 that aims to build the capability and capacity within the health system to maximise donation and transplantation rates.

The Board invited Ms Louise Clark, Assistant Secretary, Department of Health, to present an update on the work of the Jurisdictional Eye and Tissue Steering Committee in implementing Recommendation 2 of the PricewaterhouseCoopers Report, *Analysis of the Australian Tissue Sector*, that a national policy framework to clearly define the guiding policy principles for the effective operation of the sector be developed and agreed by all governments. The Board noted that work is progressing and that recommendations on the future arrangements for the Australian tissue sector will be provided to the Council of Australian Governments Health Council in 2019 for consideration.

The Board reviewed the current advisory committee structure and agreed a revised structure which includes the establishment of a community advisory committee to facilitate community input to the ongoing development of the national program.

Prior to the meeting, the Board invited Mr Simon Lewis from PricewaterhouseCoopers to present on the role of the Board in the governance and operation of the OTA and the responsibilities of Board members under the *Public Governance and Performance Accountability Act 2013* and the *Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority Act 2008*.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 18 September 2018.

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