



Australian Government
Organ and Tissue Authority

Organ and Tissue Authority Board

Meeting No 4, 27 March 2018

Communiqué

The fourth meeting of the Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) Board (the Board) was held in Canberra on Tuesday, 27 March 2018.

The Board reviewed progress by the OTA since the last meeting (21 November 2017), including the year-to-date organ donation and transplantation outcomes and project status reporting; and considered a range of operational, financial and compliance matters.

The Board noted feedback on the outcomes of DonateLife Week 2017 and agreed to continue the 'Make your decision count, register today at donatelife.gov.au to save lives' theme for DonateLife Week 2018 to maintain continuity and build on the momentum from DonateLife Week 2017.

The Board noted the current status of the OTA's professional education program which is well established and delivered as business as usual with regular reviews and updates to ensure currency and relevance of messaging. The Board agreed it is timely to consider new opportunities to advance the capacity of the sector and the capability of donation specialists in the DonateLife Network. The Board supported the OTA to develop a national strategy for professional education into the future, in consultation with the DonateLife Network.

The Board appreciates that community engagement is critical to the ongoing development and success of the national program. Following a presentation on past community engagement undertaken by the OTA, the Board identified increased registration on the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR) as a priority and discussed strategies for achieving this. The Board agreed that the OTA explore opportunities for further increasing registration on the AODR by providing access to information and the current online simplified registration channel at www.donatelife.gov.au from a range of third party platforms and points of contact with health services such as medical centres and pharmacies. Registration data shows that, over the past decade, the most effective way of increasing registration has been via driver's licence. The Board asked the OTA to work with the states and territories to look at options for embedding online AODR registration through driver's licence applications and renewals.

The Board, in response to the DonateLife Thank You Day 2017 Evaluation Report and feedback from the Jurisdictional Advisory Group, agreed to recommend to the Minister for Indigenous Health and Minister for Aged Care, the Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, that DonateLife Thank You Day be held on Sunday, 18 November 2018 as an ongoing annual social media campaign led by the OTA. Subsequent to the Board meeting, the Minister agreed.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 26 June 2018.
