



Australian Government
Organ and Tissue Authority

Organ and Tissue Authority Board

Meeting No 8

Communiqué

The Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) Board (the Board) met on Tuesday, 2 April 2019.

The Board reviewed progress by the OTA since the last meeting (11 December 2018). The update included a review of the national year-to-date organ donation and transplantation outcomes, as well as individual hospital performance metrics; a report on the status of current projects; a report on the OTA's risk management process and risk profile; and a report from the Chair of the OTA Audit Committee.

The Board was advised during the meeting that OrganMatch, a key deliverable for the OTA, had gone live today. OrganMatch is a state-of-the-art software application providing the platform to drive clinical best practice for waitlisting, organ offer, immunological matching and allocation. The Board acknowledged the work that has been undertaken by all those involved to deliver this significant project.

The Board continued their discussion of strategies for increasing registrations on the Australian Organ Donor Register and encouraging families to discuss donation. The Board supports all Australians being able to register to be an organ and tissue donor when they are applying for or renewing their driver's licence. The OTA will progress this recommendation in consultation with key stakeholders.

The Board received an update on community engagement activities. The update included a report on the inaugural meeting of the Community Engagement Group established by the Board to foster ongoing collaboration with community organisations to inform community engagement as part of the national program.

The Board reviewed the outcomes of the National Donor Family Study Wave 3. The research undertaken in the Wave 3 Donor Family Study (families who consented to or declined donation in a hospital setting in 2014 or 2015) sought to understand families' experiences to inform how to best meet the needs of families. Consistent with previous Waves, the majority of families who consented to donation agreed that knowing the wishes of a loved one makes the donation decision easier for family members; and the decision to donate provided comfort in their loss. The study will be released publicly next month.

The Board noted that the Australia and New Zealand Paired Kidney Exchange Program is expected to commence from 1 July 2019. This collaboration between Australia and New Zealand will result in a larger combined pool of incompatible donor/recipient pairs from which compatible matches can be identified, resulting in increased live donor kidney transplants in both countries.

The Board received an update from the Commonwealth Department of Health on the status of two reviews currently in progress: the Review of the Australian organ donation, retrieval and transplantation system (EY Review) and the National Eye and Tissue Sector Policy Framework. Both reviews are progressing to the COAG Health Council for consideration and advice regarding next steps.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on 25 June 2019.
