



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

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## **Organ and Tissue Authority Board**

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### **Meeting No 10**

#### **Communiqué**

The Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) Board (the Board) met on Tuesday, 17 September 2019.

The Board reviewed progress by the OTA since the last meeting (25 June 2019) presented by the OTA CEO. The CEO report included updates on the OTA staffing profile; the status of the DonateLife Network, including key leadership movements; key projects, including DonateLife Week 2019; and OTA participation in professional collaborations and conferences.

The Board commended the OTA and the DonateLife Network on a very successful DonateLife Week with extensive community engagement and media coverage and noted preliminary data showing an 18% increase in new registrations over the period 1 July-31 August 2019 compared with the same period in 2018. The Board agreed to review the formal evaluation of DonateLife Week at the next meeting.

The Board reviewed the year-to-date national and jurisdictional organ donation outcomes, as well as hospital performance metrics. The Board noted the following improvements in clinical practice across most key hospitals: the increase in referrals to DonateLife; the increase in checking the Australian Organ Donor Register prior to the family donation conversation; and greater involvement of donation specialists in family donation conversations. The Board agreed that, in the light of a relatively stable donor pool, continuing to focus on these metrics is key to maximising consent and donation outcomes. The Board discussed the ongoing work of the OTA supporting the states and territories in their efforts to continue to improve outcomes.

A key focus of the meeting was review of the OTA's 2018-19 financial statements for inclusion in the 2018-19 Annual Report. The Board noted the letter of assurance from the OTA Audit Committee and that, subject to final clearance from the Australian National Audit Office, the Chair, on behalf of the Board, would sign the key accountability documents.

The Board discussed the status of two key projects being led by the Commonwealth Department of Health: the Review of the Australian Organ Donation, Retrieval and Transplantation system (EY Review) and the draft National Policy Framework for the Eye and Tissue Sector.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 10 December 2019.

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