



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

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## **Organ and Tissue Authority Board**

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### **Meeting No 9**

### **Communiqué**

The Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) Board (the Board) met on Tuesday, 25 June 2019.

The Board noted that, following the May 2019 federal election, the Hon Mark Coulton MP has been appointed as the Minister with portfolio responsibility for increasing organ and tissue donation for transplantation. The Board welcomed the appointment and looks forward to working with Minister Coulton.

The Board reviewed progress by the OTA since the last meeting (2 April 2019). The update included reference to the Australian and New Zealand Kidney Exchange Program which will commence on 1 July 2019; the delivery of OrganMatch on 2 April 2019 and the system enhancements planned for 2019-20; and the announcement of the Community Awareness Grants on 19 June 2019 by Minister Coulton.

The Board reviewed the year-to date national and jurisdictional organ donation and transplantation outcomes, as well as individual hospital performance metrics and discussed the work being undertaken by the OTA to support the states and territories in their efforts to improve outcomes.

The Board also considered a range of operational, financial and compliance matters, including financial, risk and project reports and no issues were raised.

The Board received an update from the Commonwealth Department of Health (Health) on the status of the Review of the Australian Organ Donation, Retrieval and Transplantation system (EY Review) and the National Eye and Tissue Sector Policy Framework. Both are progressing to the COAG Health Council for consideration and advice regarding next steps.

The Board reviewed the final draft 2019-20 Strategic Plan developed in consultation with the DonateLife Network leadership team and representatives of state and territory health departments. The plan outlines the strategic direction and priorities for the national program over the next four years (2019–2020 to 2022–23). The Board approved the 2019-20 Strategic Plan with minor amendments. The plan can be viewed on the DonateLife website at [www.donatelife.gov.au/about-us/strategy-and-performance/strategic-plan](http://www.donatelife.gov.au/about-us/strategy-and-performance/strategic-plan)

The Board received an update on the broad range of activities planned for DonateLife Week 2019 (Sunday, 28 July to 4 August), and a presentation by OTA staff on lessons learned from a recent trip to the Gift of Life Institute and the United Network for Organ Sharing in the USA.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 17 September 2019.

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