



Australian Government
National Health and Medical Research Council

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Making a Decision about Organ and Tissue Donation After Death
Public Consultation Feedback Template

Closing Date for Comments: Monday 24 April 2006

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Organisation: **Australian Nursing Federation**

Specific Comments

Page	Chapter	Paragraph	Column if appropriate	Comments
6	1	4	Left	<i>This is discussed in another NHMRC booklet</i> Provide name and details + internet address.
6	1	9	Right	This paragraph can be read as contradictory and a little patronising if one is unfamiliar with the differences between organ and tissue donation. While this is teased out a little more in Chapter 3, the Overview is a critical point for engagement by the reader. Suggest more care is spent in spelling out the difference between organ and tissue donation, and perhaps making the words bold to stop the reader and emphasise that these are not interchangeable words. A brief reason (if that is possible) may assist in the differentiation and assist understanding. There is little to be gained by protecting the reader, it gives a sense of paternalism where a such statement is made without the reasons.
Eg 14 +	3	2 nd last box		Suggest that instead of using the term <i>the body</i> a more sensitive term may be <i>the person's body</i> .
16	3	3 rd dot point	Right	The term <i>link nurse</i> has no meaning to the uninitiated. Suggest either of the following: <i>a nurse who is a key liaison person (who may be called the link nurse) between the hospital and a</i> ; or, <i>a liaison nurse(sometimes called a link nurse) who may be the contact.....</i>

18	5	7 th dot point	Suggest that <i>empower</i> is not necessarily the best word here. Perhaps replacing it with <i>may give some comfort to my family.</i>
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General Comments

The Handbook will make a valuable addition to the aids available to people in making a decision about donating their organs and registering on the Australian Organ Donor Register.

As suggested above there are some statements in the document that may be better backed up with factual information that will enable better understanding about what happens and why in the organ donation process.

This is the sort of information that should be a ‘pop-up’ on the Medicare, health professional organisations and other such community noticeboards on the internet as well as being widely available in clinicians’ waiting rooms, hospital and other health service and community waiting areas, libraries, through school personal development programs, universities, local councils, transport hubs etc. GPs and other clinicians who have the chance to be opportunistic in a discussion about health care with people at a non-critical point should be encouraged to introduce the subject of organ donation and discuss the contents of the handbook during a consultation.

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