

All Governments' Statement: Review of the Australian organ donation, retrieval and transplantation system

All Australian governments are committed to ensuring Australia has the best systems in place to support organ donation and to optimise transplantation outcomes.

On 13 April 2018, the COAG Health Council agreed to the Commonwealth working with states and territories to undertake a review of the Australian organ donation, retrieval and transplantation system (the Review). The Review is being undertaken in two phases. The first phase sought to examine pre and post transplantation services and identify barriers to equity of access to transplant waiting lists and transplantation services. This included extensive consultation with clinicians, jurisdictional officials and stakeholders, peak bodies, transplant recipients and donor families.

The [*Review of the Australian organ donation, retrieval and transplantation system Final Report*](#) (Final Report) found that increased donation activity has created significant pressure on downstream services and on the capacity of the health system. A key finding was that enhancements to the current system are required in order to sustain and continue to drive optimal transplantation outcomes.

The Final Report identified the following three key priorities for action:

- developing a national strategy to meet the expected increase in organ transplantation volumes;
- improving governance to optimise future growth and sustainability of the donation, retrieval and transplantation system;
- developing a nationally-driven approach to focus and improve organ donation and transplantation rates and outcomes among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and Australians who live in rural and remote locations.

The complexity of the organ donation, retrieval and transplantation system is evident in the 57 broad ranging recommendations made in the Final Report. The Final Report's recommendations have not yet been endorsed and must be thoroughly considered to understand the potential implications on health service provision and planning. A committee of government officials representing all jurisdictions and the Organ and Tissue Authority will oversee a comprehensive assessment of the Final Report's recommendations and development of a future national strategy (the Strategy) that addresses all three key priorities.

In developing the Strategy, the Committee will also take into account evidence-based international best practice donation, retrieval and transplantation data and information.

The work undertaken by the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) to improve access to, and outcomes of, kidney transplantation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, will also be considered in the development of the Strategy.

Once finalised, the Strategy will be provided to COAG Health Council for consideration and endorsement by all Health Ministers.