# Governments’ Statement on the Analysis of the Australian Eye and Tissue Sector

In June 2015, at the request of the Commonwealth and State and Territory governments, PricewaterhouseCoopers undertook an Analysis of the Australian Eye and Tissue Sector. The report from the analysis presents an overview of the eye and tissue sector, as informed by stakeholders in tissue banking, government and clinical sectors.

The eye and tissue sector is the largest donation and transplant sector in Australia. Each year the lives of thousands of Australians are transformed through the transplantation of generously donated eyes and tissues.

The report found that the Australian eye and tissue sector is diverse and undergoing rapid change in some areas. There was a 350 percent increase in tissue transplant activity in Australia over the 2009-2014 period and the pace of growth and change continues. As a result of this growth, the local availability of tissues for transplantation has not always met the community’s needs. As in other areas of the health sector, innovation in the development of new types of tissue for transplant has had a significant impact on the availability of tissue for transplant and the structure and function of the Australian sector. The report also found that awareness of the emerging complexities associated with the changing sector is limited. To ensure the continued adequate supply of tissue to meet the transplantation needs of the Australian population further work is required to support the sector in meeting these challenges to ensure the availability of eyes and tissues for transplantation in Australia into the future.

The Commonwealth and State and Territory governments acknowledge that there are some issues within the sector which require rapid action. We agree with the recommendations presented in the report, particularly Recommendation Two which identifies that there is a need for a national policy framework for the sector that is agreed between all governments. This will inform the implementation of other measures to ensure the continued availability of eyes and tissues for those Australians who need them. The Commonwealth and State and Territory governments will work together to develop this national policy framework.

The Governments’ recognise that the eye and tissue sector is complex with multiple stakeholders. In addressing the recommendations within the report the Government will engage with key stakeholders to ensure that issues identified in the report can be addressed in a meaningful way to ensure the Australian eye and tissue sector is sustainable into the future.

An action plan has been developed to address the issues raised in the report. It is expected work will be undertaken across the next two years.