
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2023 1:53 PM
To: registreddonorsinquiry
Cc: OTA Parliamentary
Subject: RE: Response to question taken on notice by ANZICS DODC at Victorian registered donor inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Katherine,

Thank you for contacting me and apologies for the delay in my reply. I am the right person to speak to.

It is important to understand the specialists involved in organ donation require a special skillset to enable they deliver the process and support the families making a donation decision through a consistent, safe and best practice. The Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) deliver a Professional Education Package as part of the National organ donation program. The Professional Education Package (PEP) provides education and training to health professionals on supporting families in conversations about the opportunity for organ and tissue donation. It is designed to provide participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to support grieving families to make an informed and enduring decision about donation that is consistent with the values and beliefs of their relative and their family.

The PEP provides training and learning through three workshops:

- **The Introductory Donation Awareness Training (IDAT):** The IDAT is a one-day multidisciplinary workshop that provides introductory training and education to a range of health professionals involved in or interested in organ, eye and tissue donation.
- **Core Family Donation Conversation (cFDC):** The core FDC workshop is a two-day workshop that provides training to a range of health professionals working in organ and tissue donation.
- **Practical Family Donation Conversation (pFDC):** The practical FDC workshop follows the cFDC workshop and expands on knowledge and provides specialist skills for having conversations with families about donation through practical skills training.

In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the PEP workshops are revised as required to ensure that they continue to meet the training needs of the sector.

Introductory Donation Awareness training (IDAT)

The workshop provides information on:

- death and the donation pathways — Donation after Neurological Determination of Death (DNDD) and Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death (DCDD)
- loss and reactions to catastrophic news
- how to support and communicate with grieving families
- the family donation conversation
- the donation process and the professional roles involved.

The primary audience of this workshop is all healthcare professionals interested in finding out more about organ and tissue donation. Attendees at the workshops are usually; nursing staff across the hospital including critical care and emergency departments, social workers, and chaplains. The workshop is facilitated by DonateLife education coordinators, donor family support coordinators, donation specialist staff and grief specialists.

Core Family Donation Conversation (cFDC)

The workshop provides increased knowledge, understanding and skills in having conversations about death and donation. The aim is to help ensure that families are provided with enough information to make an informed donation decision.

The workshop explores:

- specific elements of family care and communication
- the range of reactions experienced by families who receive catastrophic news
- the key factors in the process, timing and sequence of the donation conversation
- best practices for supporting families in grief and in the donation conversation
- strategies to support informed and enduring decision making about donation.

The primary audience of this workshop is DonateLife Donation Nursing and Medical Specialists (who are required to attend as part of their role) and Intensive care medical trainees. The medical trainees are required by the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand (CICM) to complete this workshop as part of mandatory training requirements. However, the workshop is open to other healthcare workers involved in the donation process, particularly those involved in donation conversations with families.

This workshop is led by a national group of specialist trainers, including experienced DonateLife donation specialists, intensive care specialists and grief counsellors.

The workshop is regularly reviewed in consultation with the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society, the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand and the Australian College of Critical Care Nurses to make sure the material is current and continues to meet training needs.

Practical Family Donation Conversation (pFDC)

This one-day workshop gives participants the opportunity to reflect on the key teachings of the [core FDC workshop](#) and practice challenging scenarios in targeted role plays.

The workshop focuses on:

- key factors in the process, timing and sequence of the donation conversation
- best practices for supporting families in grief and in the donation conversation
- strategies to ensure informed and enduring decision making about donation.

The primary audience of the workshop is DonateLife Donation Nursing and Medical Specialists (who are required to attend as part of their role). However other healthcare workers involved in the donation process may also attend. It is expected that participants attend a core workshop before attending the pFDC.

The pFDC workshops are facilitated by a national group of trainers, including experienced DonateLife donation specialists and education coordinators, intensive care specialists and grief counsellors.

Theatre Organ Donation Workshop

There has also been developed a Theatre organ donation workshop that is delivered specifically for perioperative nurses. This one-day workshop provides an overview of the donation process as well as an opportunity to discuss and explore topics that are unique to perioperative nurses, relating to the organ donation process and organ retrieval surgery.

Below is high-level data of the education delivered as part of the PEP nationally since 2018. The numbers during 2020-2022 show a decline due to the impact of COVID restrictions. Attendance has continued to improve since mid-2022..

	IDAT total attendance numbers	cFDC total attendance numbers	pFDC total attendance numbers
2022-23	629	308	152
2021-22	541	189	61
2020-21	628	214	90
2019-20	475	203	96
2018-19	751	306	144

We are unable to provide the course breakdown by jurisdiction. We could investigate further for Victoria specific numbers, however there is some complexities in this data as attendees sometimes travel interstate to attend these workshops.

Regarding what funding would be required to provide that extra training to doctors and nurses- Are you able to provide some clarity on the scope of what the Committee is looking for with this request?

Hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if you require anything further.

Kind Regards

Alison Hodak

**National Manager | Clinical Programs
Organ and Tissue Authority**

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Our agency recognises the First Nations Peoples of this nation and their ongoing connection to culture and country.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 13 October 2023 11:20 AM
To: registereddonorsinquiry
Cc: OTA Parliamentary
Subject: RE: Response to question taken on notice by ANZICS DODC at Victorian registered donor inquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Jess,

Thank you for your request regarding approximate breakdown of how much each of the three training courses allocates to eye and tissue donation.

The **Introductory Donation Awareness Training (IDAT)** provides introductory education on organ, eye and tissue donation around Australia to a range of health professionals involved in or interested in organ, eye and tissue donation. There is a sizable allocation to information around eye and tissue donation. This includes the following components:

- How eye and tissue transplantation can change lives
- Annual data around tissue and eye donor numbers
- Who the Australian Eye and Tissue Banks are
- Donation pathways for organ, eye and tissue
- Eye and tissue donation after death
- The tissue donation process

The **core and practical family donation workshops** delivered to medical and donation staff, the focus of the workshops are on core communication skills for raising donation for both organ and eye and tissue in the Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department. Therefore as these skills and information are relevant to organ, eye and tissue donation there is equal allocation of information.

To complement the **IDAT and core and practical workshops** the OTA has created the Eye and Tissue Donation eLearning module. This module provides information on what eye and tissue donation and transplantation is and the role of health professionals in the process. All DonateLife staff are enrolled into this module and it has been disseminated to the OTA's Education Coordinators Network to be shared with hospitals across all jurisdictions where it can be accessed by general hospital staff.

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Kind Regards

Alison Hodak

**National Manager | Clinical Programs
Organ and Tissue Authority**

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