



Committee seeks input on improving organ and tissue donation rates in Victoria

The Legislative Assembly's Legal and Social Issues Committee is seeking submissions to its inquiry into improving organ and tissue donation rates in Victoria.

The Committee is particularly interested in receiving input on the effectiveness of the current model for registering to be an organ and tissue donor in Victoria, as well as the issues that impact donation rates in the state.

Stakeholders are also encouraged to provide feedback on opportunities to increase organ and tissue donation rates in Victoria, and to share information on alternative international models for registering to be a donor.

"Up to seven lives can be saved by one organ donor and many more can be helped through tissue donation, so it is essential that we explore ways to increase the number of donors in Victoria," said Committee Chair Ella George.

Australia has a high transplantation success rate and most Australians support organ and tissue donation. However, only around 36 per cent nationally and 23 per cent in Victoria are registered donors.

That's the second lowest registration rate of all states and territories and, with around 1,800 Australians currently waitlisted for an organ transplant, the Committee is seeking to identify ways to increase the number of registered donors in Victoria.

"We are calling on stakeholders to share their views and ideas with us so that we can recommend effective practices that will lead to better health outcomes for Victorians," Ms George said.

The Committee's inquiry comes at a time when organ donation rates have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the number of organ donors and transplants in Australia decreasing by 15 per cent. While this rose slightly in 2022, by 8 per cent for organ donors and 4 per cent for people who received transplants, there is a real opportunity to improve registration rates.

The Committee is accepting written submissions until May 19.

The full terms of reference are available on the Committee's [website](#).