

Deputy Premier  
Attorney-General  
Minister for Justice  
Minister for Health

Tabled by  
Hon. D. Parkinson MLC  
26/10/08



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MTS No.: 44012 - HlthS - CPEM



Hon Jim Wilkinson MLC  
Chairman  
Legislative Council Select Committee - Organ Donation  
Parliament House  
**HOBART TAS 7000**

Dear Mr Wilkinson

I am writing to express my thanks to the members of the Legislative Council Select Committee for putting together such a comprehensive investigation of organ donation issues from the Tasmanian perspective.

This report has been a valuable resource to inform discussion with the Australian Government regarding their World's Best Practice National Reform Plan for Organ and Tissue Donation for Transplantation which was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments on 3 July 2008.

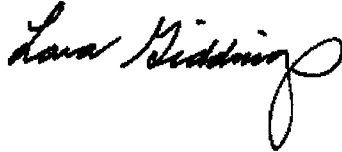
In fact, there is considerable synergy between the findings of your report and the Reform Package, with the key features of the Reform Package including funding for:

- dedicated organ donation specialist doctors and other staff in public and private hospitals;
- the establishment of a new national approach to organ and tissue donation, including the creation of: a national authority to implement and coordinate national initiatives; and a national network of organ and tissue agencies;
- hospitals to meet the staffing, bed and infrastructure costs associated with organ donation;
- the continuation of national public awareness and education;
- support for deceased donor families;
- a new national eye and tissue donation and transplantation network; and
- other significant measures such as enhanced professional education programs and national living donor programs.

Through my Department, Tasmania is represented on the advisory group for the implementation of the Reform Package and will work to ensure that Tasmania will benefit from this nationally consistent approach to organ and tissue donation and transplantation processes.

Thank you once again for providing this excellent report on the organ donation issues facing us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lara Giddings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

Lara Giddings, MP  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Health**

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1 October 2008