



**Australian Government**  
**Organ and Tissue Authority**

---

**ORGAN AND TISSUE AUTHORITY**  
**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

**Introduction**

This Statement of Intent outlines the Organ and Tissue Authority's (OTA) response to the Government's Statement of Expectations for the Agency. The OTA's purpose is to save and improve the lives of more Australians via transplantation through optimising organ and tissue donation outcomes by leading a nationally coordinated and consistent approach and system.

The OTA is committed to further enhancing the clinical systems that underpin donation and transplantation, and raising community awareness and stakeholder engagement across Australia to normalise the conversation about organ and tissue donation, and thereby maximize donation and transplantation outcomes.

Our focus for the next 12 months is to continue to enhance the delivery of donation and transplantation services for Australians, and increase transplantation opportunities for the 1,700 Australians waitlisted for an organ transplant, and the further 13,000 people on dialysis, many of whom may also benefit from a transplant, or those in need of a tissue transplant.

**Priorities**

Lead the national program

The OTA acknowledges our responsibility to provide national leadership to the organ and tissue donation sector, and work in partnership with the states and territories, DonateLife Network, hospitals and the transplantation sector, eye and tissue banks, and the community to improve access to organ and tissue transplantation through a nationally coordinated and consistent program.

We will continue to collaborate with states and territories and lead our DonateLife Network to fully embed clinical best practice in intensive care units and emergency departments. Key areas of focus include ensuring that 100% of potential donor opportunities are identified and that all families of potential donors receive expert care and accurate information by trained professionals. We will continue to enhance the DonateLife hospital reporting framework to monitor adherence to best clinical practices and performance. Provision of high quality care for donors and their families will continue to be a priority through the ongoing delivery of our professional education program for donation specialists and other healthcare personnel and the donor family support service.

Raising community awareness

In 2020-21, the OTA will increase engagement with the community to promote awareness of organ and tissue donation. This includes encouraging more Australians to register to be a donor on the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR) and, just as importantly, to let their family and friends know they want to be a donor.

In collaboration with the DonateLife Network and our community partners, we will undertake a range of community education and awareness-raising activities including two key annual events to promote the importance of donation and acknowledge the generosity of donors and their families - DonateLife Week and DonateLife Thank You Day. Community Awareness Grants and new Partnerships will deliver opportunities for cost-effective and sustained collaboration with like-minded partners that will extend the reach of existing DonateLife communications activities and gain access to new audiences or channels.





**Australian Government**  
**Organ and Tissue Authority**

---

We will continue to provide factual information and promotional resources to partners across the donation and transplantation community sector and the broader public to encourage informed discussion and decision-making about organ and tissue donation. Our key target audiences in the coming 12 months are young males, multicultural and Indigenous communities, who are under represented on the AODR.

Provide expert advice on reviews

The OTA will continue to work closely and provide expert advice with the Department of Health and state and territory health department representatives on the outcomes of the *Review of the Australian organ donation, retrieval and transplantation system* and the *National Eye and Tissue Sector Policy Framework*. This will include development of an Early Action Plan and a future national strategy for retrieval and transplantation in Australia, and delivery on agreed priorities from both reviews, building on the success and learnings of the national donation program.

Provide national leadership and remain responsive to emerging priorities including COVID-19

The OTA will continue to play a key role in supporting the clinical sector to deliver the national program and drive progress against our strategic objectives. We will continue to engage with our established committee network to facilitate expert advice and recommendations to inform the successful delivery of the national program.

The OTA played a key role in facilitating national coordination and communications across the donation and transplantation sector following the initial outbreak of COVID-19 in Australia. The establishment of the national COVID-19 Rapid Response Taskforce in collaboration with the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) has provided an effective leadership forum for key clinical stakeholders across the donation, retrieval and transplantation sector. The Taskforce will continue to provide an effective and collaborative forum to facilitate national leadership and a coordinated response to emerging priorities including further COVID-19 impacts on the sector in the coming year.

The OTA also joined an international collaboration with colleagues from donation and transplant sectors in key countries also dealing with the impact of COVID-19 to share information, discuss emerging issues and compare practice approaches. This will continue monthly in 2020-21.

Through our Vigilance and Surveillance Expert Advisory Committee we will continue to monitor national reporting of serious adverse events and/or reactions to facilitate timely identification and communication to inform practice improvements in the sector.

**Relationship with the Minister and Government**

The OTA will continue to be proactive and responsive to you as our Minister in conveying matters of importance by providing regular updates and informing you of any matters which may impact the program or our operations. We will remain agile and responsive to Government's direction and any emerging issues. We commit to providing input and responses to ministerial matters, and timely and accurate briefing materials as and when required.

We will also continue to foster a mutually transparent and productive partnership with our colleagues in the Department of Health so that the Secretary and Senior Executive is advised of issues and information regarding organ and tissue donation for transplantation. We will continue to provide information and expert advice to inform organ and tissue donation and transplantation policy development and associated considerations.





**Australian Government**  
**Organ and Tissue Authority**

---

**Relationship with external stakeholders**

Increasing organ and tissue donation for transplantation is a shared responsibility. The OTA will continue to collaborate with the community, state and territory health departments, the national DonateLife Network, the transplantation clinical sector and eye and tissue banks.

We will continue to engage with the public, raising awareness and providing accurate information, including multicultural resources, so Australians can make an informed decision about donation.

We thank and acknowledge the generous donors and their families who have saved and transformed the lives of transplant recipients through organ and tissue donation. We will continue to collaborate with our Community Engagement Group, including donor families and transplant recipients to inform the development of community education and awareness programs including DonateLife Week.

**Organisational governance and financial management**

The OTA recognises the value and importance of good governance, performance and accountability and is governed by the *Public Governance, Performance, and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), the *Public Service Act 1999*, and the *Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority Act 2008* (OTA Act).

The OTA Board and the OTA will continue to comply with the requirements of the Commonwealth Performance Framework and Resource management framework. We will comply with all financial, performance and reporting accountabilities as set out in the PGPA Act, and remain cognisant of the legislative framework under which the OTA operates.

**Transparency and accountability**

Through the publication of our Corporate Plan and Annual Report the OTA will be transparent and accountable for our performance. Our Corporate Plan details our purpose, objectives, strategies and activities and key performance indicators over the period of the plan. Progress against our performance measures is reported in the Annual Report and regular progress reports on donation and transplantation activity.

Our quantitative and qualitative performance measures outlined in the Corporate Plan align with the OTA's Portfolio Budget Statements and will be used to measure and report our progress to the Australian Parliament and the general public.

We look forward to working closely with you to save and improve the lives of more Australians by delivering a national program to optimise organ and tissue donation for transplantation.

Kind regards

Dr Mal Washer  
Chair, OTA Board

Lucinda Barry  
Chief Executive Officer

