

Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Registry

(ANZOD Registry)

1998 Report

[Data collected to 31st December 1997]

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STATISTICAL METHODS

Actuarial and Kaplan-Meier survivals have been produced using the procedure contained in

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Over the past three decades, organ transplantation has evolved from an experimental procedure to a recognised and efficient medical tool, one that is able to heal or to improve the quality of life for many patients.

Due to this very success the number of people requiring transplantation has risen: yet the availability of organs for transplantation is limited by the number of willing organ donors. Sadly, many people have a long wait for a transplant, and some will die during that period.

The statistics in this edition of the Australia and New Zealand Organ Donation Registry show a considerable rate of variation in the rate of organ donation from State to State – and indeed a somewhat low rate for both Australia and New Zealand compared to some other countries. It is very pleasing, however, to see the co-operation shown across the Tasman with the exchange of these precious organs.

The collection of the published statistics is a time-consuming business, and all Transplant Coordinators are to be congratulated on their efforts. I also acknowledge the Editors who, both in the summaries and in the report at large provide clear and concise evidence of the value of organ donation and transplantation.

The real human value of organ transplantation, however, is not to be found in statistics but in the enjoyment of life that can result to the individual. In September, 1997, I opened the World Transplant Games in Sydney, where 1200 sportsmen, women and young people who had received a transplant gathered to compete. It was a celebration of courage and compassion. Courage by the recipients who had triumphed over great adversity; and the extraordinary compassion of the donors and their families who, despite their own loss and sadness, had made that triumph possible.

I hope the success of the games will encourage more people and their families to consider becoming organ donors. In that event, it would be wonderful if future editions of the Registry were able to show a considerable improvement in the rate of organ donation in Australia and New Zealand, and consequently a shortening in the waiting list for all those who require organ transplantation.

Sir William Deane

Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

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