



## **Senator Stephen Parry**

*Liberal, Tasmania*

Deputy President of the Senate

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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17 January, 2012

#### **Organ Donors Moving in Right Direction**

Senator Stephen Parry, Liberal Senator for Tasmania, said today that there is much positive to be said regarding organ transplants in Australia following the release of the *2011 Donation and Transplantation Performance Report*.

Senator Parry said that of the 145,000 deaths in Australia per annum, only 1 % are potential organ donors. This means that as few 1450 individuals per annum die in the appropriate clinical setting where their organs can be removed for transplant before the heart stops beating.

“Because so few die under these appropriate conditions, every extra person signed up to be an organ donor is significant – remembering that one donor can help many different people - dramatically increasing the chances of someone receiving a vital organ,” Senator Parry said.

“In 2011 there were approximately 1596 people on the transplant waiting list Australia wide, and of that number, 1001 transplants were undertaken. That is approximately 63% of those waiting received transplants, which is a positive development from previous years when only 50% of those waiting received transplants,” said Senator Parry.

“Whilst we need to encourage more Tasmanians and Australians to register for organ donation, we must recognise that there has been noticeable improvement over the last few years, and we are moving in the right direction,” Senator Parry said.

#### **Everyone should discuss this potential with next of kin**

“Having been involved - in a previous vocation - with families whose loved ones have been organ donors, I would encourage families to discuss this sensitive issue.

“Whilst we may not like to contemplate our mortality and it may be a difficult thing to talk about, it is comforting for the next of kin to be sure that – in the unlikely event where a decision has to be made – their relative wanted to participate in the organ donation program,” Senator Parry said.