

HUMAN TISSUE AND TRANSPLANT AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Minister for Health — Personal Explanation

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [2.52 pm]: Madam Speaker, I rise under standing order 148 to make a personal explanation.

The SPEAKER: Permission granted.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise under standing order 148 to correct the record on two questions asked in this house during the consideration in detail stage of the Human Tissue and Transplant Amendment Bill 2022 on clauses 18 and 19. They were asked by the member for Vasse on 27 October 2022.

With regard to clause 18 of the bill, the member asked how this amendment will allow the legislation to operate in a way that it has not been able to operate before. The correct answer is that the amendment will expand the purpose for which tissue removed pursuant to that section may be used to include for the purposes of training, education or quality assurance. This will allow for consent to be provided, under the act, for the removal and use of tissue to support training and quality assurance processes for pathology services.

With regard to clause 19 of the bill, the member requested an outline of the material differences, if any, of any changes that will be brought about by the amendment to section 24 of the act, the basis for that change and whether any representations were made to government. The correct answer is that this amendment will expand on the types of tissues that may be removed from the body of a deceased donor by a non-medical practitioner. The current provision allows that only an authorised person other than a medical practitioner to remove tissue for corneal transplantation. The amendments to section 24 will provide that in addition to permitted medical practitioners, authorised persons appointed under new section 24A may remove skin and musculoskeletal tissue in addition to ocular tissue from deceased persons for a permitted purpose or use. Authorised persons are highly trained retrieval technicians working in tissue banks licensed under the Therapeutic Goods Act, and must be appointed by the WA Minister for Health for the purposes of this provision. This change is necessary because tissue retrieval must be completed within set time requirements. Allowing authorised persons to remove these tissues will enable retrieval to be performed in a safe, timely and efficient manner, and reduce the loss of potential donor tissue that may occur when a medical practitioner is not available. Consultation specific to section 24 was undertaken in 2017 with key stakeholders across WA Health, the broader eye and tissue sector, and state and national professional bodies.

I regret any inconvenience and apologise to members for this inconvenience.