



THE BRIEF

DONOR FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

Member Update — THE BRIEF No. 3

Hello members,

Welcome to our 3rd Edition of THE BRIEF, where we try and keep you up to date with current important organ and tissue matters.

Donor Families Australia (DFA) has had it made known to us, via concerned members, that reporting on donation stories has not always acknowledged the donor and their family. DFA has taken these concerns seriously and has constructed what we think is a set of guidelines that journalists should follow. It will also act as a guide for politicians and policy makers. Please click on the following link.

https://www.donorfamiliesaustralia.org/files/ugd/8a154b_cb8d6deed36e4c8cbbff25c07fbf2ace.pdf

Our guidelines aim to promote ethical, accurate, and respectful media reporting on organ and tissue donation and transplantation in Australia, emphasizing legal compliance, sensitivity and public education.

The legal requirements for reporting are made all that much more difficult given states and territories treat ownership of the deceased donor's information differently. Some jurisdictions recognize the family as the owner of the deceased information whilst others don't. In the NT, WA, Vic and Qld however, donor families do not own their deceased loved one's donor information. In these jurisdictions families do not have the authority to give consent to journalists to include information about their loved ones' donations. To do so

would be to contravene legislation that attracts penalties and or fines.

AGM 21st October

DFA is keen to hear from anyone who would like to join the committee. The committee is keen to have all states and territories represented. Anyone interested please make contact via this email address.

Facebook

DFA administrates two facebook pages, one just for members and a public page. Please join in the conversation.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/381528061964056>

<https://www.facebook.com/DonorFamiliesAustralia>

DFA values any comments about these topics or any others that may concern you.

Bruce McDowell
Chairman