



SENATOR THE HON JAN McLUCAS
Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister for Health and Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Transplant Games will get families talking

The Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Ageing, Senator Jan McLucas, today welcomed the announcement by ACT Chief Minister, Jon Stanhope, that Canberra would host the next Australian Transplant Games.

Senator McLucas, who has portfolio responsibility for organ and tissue donation, said the Australian Government is a proud supporter of the Transplant Games.

“The 2010 Games will be the 12th Australian Transplant Games and are a wonderful celebration of the new life and hope that transplants bring,” Senator McLucas said.

“The Games will also start families talking about organ and tissue donation.

“Every year the Transplant Games present a strong focal point for discussion of organ and tissue donation.

“Media coverage of this event will provide an opportunity for families to have that vital discussion, so that family members can say “yes” to a gift of life if the time comes.”

Senator McLucas said the Canberra Transplant Games will also be the first games to be held since the introduction of a world-leading approach to improving our performance on organ donation.

The Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority was established in January this year to provide national leadership on organ and tissue donation and implement the Government’s \$151.1 million reform package to lift the nation’s low rate of donation.

Although Australia is a world leader in transplant surgery, a long-standing shortage of organs and tissue for transplantation means that thousands of Australians suffer each year while on transplant waiting lists.

Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority will be a partner in supporting the 2010 Games together with Transplant Australia and the ACT Government.

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