

REVIEW OF HUMAN TISSUE LAWS

1. What is your personal experience of how human tissue is obtained or used in Australia?

By way of background, I am a translational endocrinologist that has been working for four decades in developing a tissue therapy for insulin-dependent diabetes. I was a founding member of the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand in 1982 and have worked in the public hospital system for almost three decades.

I have worked closely with transplant organ coordinators during this time and have but nothing but praise for their incredibly difficult role they play in ensuring organs and tissues are obtained from donors after death.

2. What is your personal experience of how human tissue laws work in Australia?

The laws are appropriate and have facilitated the availability of human organs and tissue as required. Examples are human pancreas that have been used for isolating human insulin-producing cells for both laboratory research and transplantation into diabetic humans.

6. What, if any, other issues should we be focusing on in this Inquiry?

Human fetal tissue is used for both medical research and for transplanting into humans for therapeutic reasons. Its use was guided by the NHMRC but there is no mention of it in the [2025 Ethical guidelines for cell, tissue and organ donation and transplantation](#). Clarification of the laws covering the use of this tissue obtained during the therapeutic termination of pregnancies would be helpful.

8. Do you think it is important that we consider any of the issues in the section 'Issues we are unlikely to focus on in this Inquiry'? If so, why?

The use of sperm isolated immediately after death for the purpose of fertilising an egg and creating a child is a controversial area, the laws for which vary between the states and territories. It is appropriate to make the law for this universal throughout Australia.

Professor Bernard Tuch
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