



19 January 2026

To The Australian Law Reform Commission,

Re: ALRC Discussion Paper 90

As a professional organisation supporting anatomists across Australia and New Zealand, ANZACA welcomes the Discussion Paper relating to the Review of Human Tissue Laws. We acknowledge that many of our members, and the institutions within which they work, will choose to make independent submissions. Here, as an organisation, we would like to endorse the work that is currently being undertaken. We consider it critical that the review of human tissue laws has been raised for discussion and that everyone has an opportunity to provide feedback, so to encompass ethical considerations and ensure that diverse cultural perspectives are appropriately recognised.

ANZACA supports the proposal for the development of a new regulatory framework that will bring consistency across different states and territories of Australia for the retrieval, storage and use of human tissues. Anatomy is a multi-faceted discipline, and human tissues and bodies are integral to both (i) *anatomy research*, to continue the advancement of knowledge across different anatomical and clinical fields; and (ii) *teaching and learning*, to educate future and current doctors, allied health professionals, and scientists through a variety of approaches including dissection. ANZACA advocates for regulatory frameworks that recognise and respect the diverse cultural, spiritual, and religious perspectives surrounding body and tissue donation. This includes provisions for culturally sensitive consent processes, handling practices, and eventual disposition, ensuring that donation programmes are inclusive and ethically robust within Australia's multicultural society. In addition, other aspects that require consideration for inclusion in the regulatory framework are skeletal remains (that may for example, be cared for in anatomy museums or similar), alongside histology and pathology collections.

ANZACA has an active working group for skeletal donations comprising approximately 15 members, who have expertise in osteology, curation and ethics. This group is able to offer evidence-based insights into the respectful stewardship of skeletal collections within academic and museum contexts and welcomes the opportunity to be involved in proactive and constructive discussions on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Stephanie Woodley (President)

On behalf of the ANZACA Council

