

30 September 2015

Secretariat  
Health Select Committee  
Select Committee Services  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON 6160

Via online submission form

To the Health Select Committee

### **Financial Assistance for Live Organ Donors Bill**

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) is the leading advocate for surgical standards, professionalism and surgical education in New Zealand and Australia. RACS is a not-for-profit organisation that represents more than 7000 surgeons and 1300 surgical trainees and International Medical Graduates. RACS also supports healthcare and surgical education in the Asia-Pacific region and is a substantial funder of surgical research. It represents nine surgical specialties in New Zealand and Australia being: Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic Surgery, Otolaryngology Head-and-Neck Surgery, Paediatric Surgery, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Urology and Vascular Surgery.

As part of its commitment to standards and professionalism, RACS strives to take informed and principled positions on issues related to surgical care in New Zealand. The provision of financial assistance for live organ donors is one such issue.

RACS wishes to indicate its firm support for the measures proposed in the Financial Assistance for Live Organ Donors Bill. It is anticipated that this measure will increase the number of live organ donors which is especially low in NZ compared with other western countries.

RACS considers that an individual's ability and willingness to be a live donor should be facilitated where possible. By addressing the financial barriers, live organ donation becomes not only more accessible, but also more equitable.

The RACS would be willing to provide further input in the matter of recovery times for such donors, (which may vary) in order to facilitate the progress of this Bill.

RACS commends the Government for taking action on this important issue and believes that the measures proposed by the Bill are positive step towards remedying the low number of live organ donors in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Randall Morton FRACS  
Chair, New Zealand National Board