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GREENS TABLE MOTION CALLING FOR OPT-OUT DONOR SYSTEM TO BE INVESTIGATED

Opt-Out System Could Increase Number of Suitable Donors to Save Tasmanian Lives

Paul 'Basil' O'Halloran MP
Greens Health spokesperson

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The Tasmanian Greens today tabled proposed improvements to the State's organ donor system, calling for an opt-out scenario rather than opt-in as it currently stands, to be investigated so that Tasmanians can have the full benefit of available life saving organs.

Greens Health spokesperson Paul 'Basil' O'Halloran MP, who tabled a motion calling for the Minister to investigate the opt-out option, said this approach could increase Tasmania's contribution to the 1700 people currently on waiting lists for organ transplants.

"If Tasmania wishes to increase the number of donors the Parliament needs to seriously investigate the possibility of an opt-out system similar to the Western Australian proposal late last year, and the Greens have formally moved for the Parliament to consider this," Mr O'Halloran said.

"The shortfall in suitably donated organs costs lives, and we need to address the situation by making it something that is discussed proactively within our community, as well as making it easier to become an identified donor."

"The gift of life through organ donation is something many people want to give should tragedy strike them, but the current system that requires each individual to opt in means that a majority just never get round to it."

"Despite there being an Upper House Committee Inquiry into organ donation schemes in 2008, little has been done to investigate the merits of an opt-out scheme," Mr O'Halloran said.