



Office of the ACT Chief Coroner

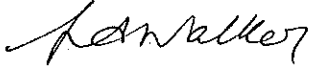
Coronial Practice Direction No. 4 of 2018 – Donation of Eye Tissue

This Direction is issued pursuant to section 51A(2) of the *Coroners Act 1997* and prescribes practices and procedures in relation to the requirement for a coroner to provide consent for the removal of certain tissue from the body of a deceased person.

1. On the basis that a coroner is or may be required, under subsection 13(1) of the *Coroners Act 1997*, to hold an inquest into certain reportable deaths, I, Lorraine Anne WALKER, Chief Coroner, direct under subsection 29(4) of the *Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1978* ("the Act") that a coroner's consent under Part 3 of the Act to the removal of certain tissue from the body of any person whose death is required to be reported to a Coroner, after the death of that person, is not required and, in that event, subsections 29(2) and (3) of the Act do not apply in relation to the removal of tissue from the body of that person.
2. This Direction is subject to the following conditions:
 - a) This Direction applies only in respect of removal of eye tissue either for the purpose of the transplantation of the tissue to the body of a living person, or for the purpose of the use of the tissue for other therapeutic purposes or for medical or scientific purposes AND
 - b) Removal of eye tissue from the body of the person is only permitted in the event that a next of kin of the person has provided advance, informed consent in writing to the removal of that tissue AND
 - c) Removal of eye tissue from the body of the person is only permitted after both the coronial pathologist and a member of the AFP Coroners Office have confirmed that in their opinion removal of that tissue will not adversely affect either
 - i. the post mortem examination of the person to be conducted OR
 - ii. the determination of the manner and cause of death of the person AND
 - d) In the event that either the coronial pathologist or a member of the AFP Coroners Office have indicated that removal of eye tissue would adversely affect the post mortem examination or the determination of the manner and cause of death of the person, this Direction will not apply to the removal of that tissue and a formal request for consent to removal is to be made to the duty Coroner AND
 - e) In the case of the removal of both eyes, or if the deceased only has one eye, the removal of that eye, tissue suitable for the taking of a sample of vitreous fluid for forensic purposes is to be returned to the ACT Forensic Medicine Centre unless the coronial pathologist advises that such return is not necessary AND
 - f) Eye tissue removed from the body of the person for transplantation or therapeutic purposes which is not ultimately used for that purpose is to be dealt with in accordance with any

express instructions from the next of kin, or, if such instruction cannot be obtained, is to be returned to the ACT Forensic Medicine Centre.

3. This Direction applies until otherwise withdrawn or revoked.



Lorraine Walker
Chief Coroner

Date of issue: 20 September 2018