

# **CORONERS AMENDMENT BILL 2004**

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

### **Overview of Bill**

About one third of the Western Australian population is not on the Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR). In the absence of notification to the relevant agency, DonateWest, by the State Coroner of family contact details for persons not on the AODR, potential tissue donation in Western Australia is reduced significantly.

The proposed Bill will enable the Coroner to refer information and contact details in relation to all deceased individuals under his jurisdiction to DonateWest. DonateWest will then contact families to discuss tissue donation for transplantation.

The contact information is to be destroyed by DonateWest within the next 2 days.

### **Clause 1 – Short title**

Clause 1 provides that the proposed Act is to be cited as the *Coroners Amendment Act 2004*.

### **Clause 2 – The Act amended**

Clause 2 provides that the proposed Act amends the *Coroners Act 1996*.

### **Clause 3 – Section 53A amended**

Clause 3 provides that section 53A is inserted into the Act. Section 53A provides that the State Coroner may provide to any “human tissue donation agency” in the jurisdiction information about a person who has died and is subject to investigation by the Coroner. The information to be provided is the name and age of the deceased, the circumstances of the death and details of the person’s next of kin.

Under subsection (2) the information provided by the Coroner is to be destroyed within 2 days of being provided.

Subsection (3) provides that a “human tissue donation agency” means an office or organisational unit coordinating or encouraging tissue transplantation under the *Human Tissue and Transplant Act 1982* (WA) and is within the Department of Health.