

The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) is opposed to the transplantation of organs from executed prisoners.

The TSANZ recognizes that capital punishment is imposed upon prisoners in some places in the world. Herein, we do not address the pros and cons of capital punishment but state our concerns regarding the recovery of organs from executed prisoners.

It is a fundamental principle for the TSANZ that organs and tissues are given freely and without coercion. Because of the restrictions in liberty in a prison environment it is impossible to ascertain whether prisoners are truly free to make independent decisions, and thus an autonomous informed consent for donation cannot be obtained. Therefore, the TSANZ is opposed to any use of organs from executed prisoners.

Currently, in the People's Republic of China, the major source of organs is from executed prisoners. It has been estimated that, annually, there are now more than 5000 transplants from executed prisoners in China. Not only are these transplants being provided for national Chinese patients, such organs are also transplanted to foreign candidates going to China to pay for an organ transplant.

The TSANZ is concerned that the financial incentive for recovering organs from executed prisoners may become an incentive to increase the number of such organs available for transplantation.

The TSANZ recognizes that there are recent developments in China that foster more transparency and commends the stated intent of the Chinese Government to improve regulation of human organ transplantation and to ban organ sales. The TSANZ, supports the efforts of the World Health Organization (WHO), to curtail the use of organs from executed prisoners.

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