

How desperate do you have to be to sell one of your own body parts? Sadly, this grisly question is being asked all too often. Take Pavle and Daniella Mircov of Serbia. The parents of two teenagers, they have been hard-hit by the financial crisis currently sweeping Europe. Out of work and unable to put food on the table, the couple recently advertised their organs for sale on the internet. They are not alone.

The sale of body parts is illegal in this country and most other parts of the world. Given the shortfall of organ donation and the increasing number of willing sellers, is it time to rethink the issue? Public opinion is divided. Would you buy or sell a kidney?

**Stacey, 32, hairdresser**

"I don't see anything wrong with it. The bottom line is that more lives will be saved. If I had the choice between buying a kidney and dying, I certainly know which I'd choose!"

**Rachel, 19, student**

"No way would I buy a kidney from someone online. It's a ridiculous idea. Who knows what diseases they have? You might end up with AIDS or something. I reckon it should be illegal."

**Kosta, 55, accountant**

"My concern is the potential for abuse. People living in poverty might be exploited by others looking to make big bucks. If this became legal, we would need regulations to protect the vulnerable."

**Jason, 23, salesman**

"It's not like selling a part for your car – removing organs is risky! Then again, we do lots of risky things. Like driving. We don't all stay off the roads just in case we're in a crash! I think if people understand the risks and they still want to go ahead, then they should be allowed to. It's a free world."

Read each question carefully and circle one answer.

- 1 Which of the following best describes this text?**
- a persuasive essay containing one person's opinion
  - a news report about medical innovations
  - a short survey presenting different viewpoints
  - a creative response to a documentary
- 2 According to the text, what is Pavle and Daniella Mircov's motive for selling their organs?**
- to set an example for their children to follow
  - to obtain money to feed their family
  - to con people into buying their organs at rip-off prices
  - to get better-paying jobs
- 3 What is one reason provided for arguing that people should be allowed to sell their kidneys?**
- the financial gains for buyers
  - the shortage of organs available for patients who need them
  - the risk of donors contracting a disease
  - the popularity of the idea among the general public
- 4 What is Stacey's primary concern with regard to this issue?**
- A person could die if they can't get a transplant.
  - The donors might die from complications.
  - The doctors will charge too much money.
  - The donor's family will be worried.
- 5 Why does Rachel feel that buying and selling kidneys should be illegal?**
- worries about the law
  - concerns about having an operation
  - fear of diseases
  - ethical issues
- 6 In the accountant's opinion, what is a key risk associated with this issue?**
- the potential for taxation
  - the potential for poverty
  - the potential for huge medical costs
  - the potential for exploitation
- 7 What is Jason's point of view?**
- We should not disallow something just because it is risky.
  - We should all stay off the roads just in case we have a car accident.
  - People do not understand the risks, so organ selling must remain illegal.
  - Everyone should sell their organs because it is no more risky than selling car parts.
- 8 What does the expression *public opinion is divided* mean?**
- Everyone feels that organs should not be bought or sold.
  - People have no preference either way.
  - There is no agreement among the public on whether or not selling organs should be illegal.
  - No-one has even thought about the issue.
- 9 Which is the most likely reason that the views of these respondents have been included in the text?**
- They were the only people who responded to the question.
  - They represent a range of gender, age and occupation.
  - They are the most radical or controversial views.
  - They are the same views on the issue.
- 10 Which of the following best describes the tone of the text?**
- formal
  - figurative
  - technical
  - conversational

Text type: Discussion

## **NAPLAN\*-style questions: Reading**

- 1 a short survey presenting different viewpoints
- 2 to obtain money to feed their family
- 3 the shortage of organs available for patients who need them
- 4 A person could die if they can't get a transplant.
- 5 fear of diseases
- 6 the potential for exploitation
- 7 We should not disallow something just because it is risky.
- 8 There is no agreement among the public on whether or not selling organs should be illegal.
- 9 They represent a range of gender, age and occupation.
- 10 conversational