



Supporting Information

Supplementary material

This appendix was part of the submitted manuscript and has been peer reviewed.
It is posted as supplied by the authors.

Appendix to: Coman J, Craig SS, Kelly AM. Skeletons in the closet: time to give human bones acquired by health practitioners for educational purposes the respect they deserve. *Med J Aust* 2022; doi: 10.5694/mja2.51477.

Table 1: Survey of Medical Practitioners

Question no.	Question	Response options	Comments
1	Please enter your age group	Under the age of 35	
		36-45	
		46-55	
		56-65	
		Over the age of 65	
2	Please enter your sex	Male	
		Female	
3	At what university did you complete your medical degree?	Monash University	
		The University of Melbourne	
		Other Australian university	
		I studied overseas	
4	In what year did you complete your medical degree?	Free text	
5	Did your educational institution recommend or require you to acquire a set or half set of human bones for your medical study?	Human bones required as part of medical studies	
		Human bones recommended (but not required) as part of medical studies	
		Human bones neither recommended or required	
		Can't recall	

6	Did you acquire a set or half set of human bones for your medical studies?	Yes	
		No	
7	From where did you obtain the bones that you used for medical educational purposes?	New from a university bookshop or medical supplier	Only respondents who replied 'yes' to Q 6
		Purchased from a fellow student/colleague/some you knew	
		Gifted to you	
		Borrowed from and subsequently returned from owner	
		Can't recall	
		Prefer not to say	
8	How helpful were biological bones for your studies?	Very helpful	Only respondents who replied 'yes' to Q 6
		Somewhat helpful	
		Neither helpful or unhelpful	
		Somewhat unhelpful	
		Very unhelpful	
9	When did you obtain your bones?	Before 1984	Only respondents who replied 'yes' to Q 6
		1985-9	
		1990-4	
		1995-9	
		2000-4	
		2005-9	
		After 2010	

		Can't recall	
10	Do you still possess the bones that you acquired?	Yes	Only respondents who replied 'yes' to Q 6
		No	
11	When was the last time that you used the bones that you acquired during your time of study?	Within the last 5 years	Only respondents who replied 'yes' to Q 6
		5-10 years	
		10-20 years	
		More than 20 years ago	
12	Have you ever considered relinquishing your bones?	Yes	Only respondents who replied 'yes' to Q 6
		No	
13	How willing would you be to relinquish your set of bones?	Very willing	Only respondents who replied 'yes' to Q 6
		Somewhat willing	
		Unsure	
		Somewhat unwilling	
		Very unwilling	
14	For what reason have you maintained possession of your bones? (more than one box may be checked)	I still use my set of bones	Only respondents who replied 'yes' to Q6 and Q10
		I plan to pass on my bones to a relative should they study health sciences	
		I don't want to relinquish my set of bones	
		I haven't previously considered relinquishing my set of bones	
		I am unsure about how I would go about relinquishing my set of bones	

		I am unsure about the legality of possessing bones	
		Human bones are difficult to obtain now so I may not be able to replace them	
		They have personal/sentimental value to me	
15	If you were to relinquish your set of bones, how would you plan to do it?	Hand over to police	Only respondents who replied 'yes' to Q6 and Q10
		Hand over to coroner	
		Handover to hospital pathology department	
		Handover to university anatomy department/medical school	
		Gift to health sciences student	
		I don't know what I would do	
16	How did you relinquish your set of bones	Sold	Only respondents who replied 'yes' to Q6 and 'no' to Q10
		Gifted to a health sciences student	
		Handed over to police	
		Handed over to coroner	
		Handed over to hospital	
		Handed over to university	
17	When did you relinquish your bones?	Before 1984	Only respondents who replied 'yes' to Q6 and 'no' to Q10
		1985-9	
		1990-4	
		1995-9	

		2000-4	
		2005-9	
		After 2010	
		Can't recall	
18	Were artificial bones available for purchase during your time of study?	Yes	
		No	
		Can't recall	
19	What is your opinion on the quality and anatomical accuracy of artificial bones compared to biological bones?	Artificial bones are far superior	
		Artificial bones are somewhat superior	
		There is no difference in accuracy and quality	
		Artificial bones are somewhat inferior	
		Artificial bones are far inferior	
		I have no opinion or knowledge on the subject	
20	If artificial bones that were identical replications of biological bones had been available when you studied medicine, what would you have used?	Artificial bones	
		Biological bones	
		Least expensive option	
		The most readily available option	
		Don't know	
		Neither	
21	If artificial bones that were inferior replications of biological bones had been available when you studied medicine, what would you have used?	Artificial bones	
		Biological bones	
		Least expensive option	
		The most readily available option	

		Don't know	
		Neither	
22	What is your understanding of the implications of the <i>Human Tissue Act 1982</i> (Victoria) on sets of human bones currently in the possession of medical practitioners? More than one box may be checked.	It is legal to buy or sell bones	Legal and illegal were not defined in the survey
		It is illegal to buy or sell bones	
		It is legal to transfer ownership of human bones so long as they are not sold	
		It is illegal to take possession of human bones	
23	What is your understanding of the origins of the majority of human bone sets circulating in Australia? More than one box may be checked.	Bones were sourced legally from exclusively Australian donors	Legal and illegal were not defined in the survey
		Bones were sourced legally from predominantly Australian donors	
		Bones were sourced from illegal Australian sources	
		Bones were legally imported from regulated international suppliers	
		Bones were legally imported from unregulated international suppliers	
		Bones were illegally imported from international suppliers	
24	Do you have any other comments relating to the use of human bones for medical education?	Free text	

Table 2. Demographic Information

		Acquired human bones for medical studies	
	Total	Yes 163, 44%	No 210, 56%
Age			
<35 years	128, 34%	13, 10%	115, 90%
36-45 years	110, 29%	34, 31%	76, 69%
46-55 years	85, 23%	73, 86%	12, 14%
56-65 years	37, 10%	33, 89%	4, 11%
>65 years	13, 3%	10, 77%	3, 23%
Gender			
Female	166, 45%	54, 33%	112, 67%
Location of university for undergraduate medical degree			
Australia	321, 86%	141, 44%	180, 56%
Non-Australia	52, 14%	22, 42%	30, 58%