

Media Release

The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Leader of the House

Minister for Health

Minister for Health Infrastructure

Minister for Ambulance Services



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SAVE A LIFE THIS CHRISTMAS BY DONATING BLOOD

The Allan Labor Government is encouraging people to roll up their sleeves and give a lifesaving gift this Christmas by donating blood.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas recently visited the Lifeblood Melbourne Donor Centre and met the Jarvis family and their four-year old daughter Kiani to spread the message of giving this Christmas.

Thanks to the donations of kind strangers, Kiani has received lifesaving blood transfusions, platelets and intravenous immunoglobulin during her treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Donated blood is used for a range of treatments, including for cancer patients like Kiani, those undergoing surgery, women in childbirth, people with blood disorders and trauma patients.

Victorians top the list of frequent donors nationwide with nearly 7,000 Victorians having made more than 100 blood donations, while more than 465,000 Victorians donated blood throughout the year.

A steady and consistent supply of donors are needed throughout the year as red blood cells only last 42 days from when they're given. More than 1.7 million donations are needed nationwide every year – or three donations every minute – to meet demand.

Between now and the new year, about 280 donations are needed each day in Victoria to meet demand.

Lifeblood also collects plasma – a vital component of blood. It can take up to 13 plasma donations to make a single vial of some plasma medicines.

Each year, the Labor Government, alongside the Commonwealth and other state and territory governments, contributes to the National Blood Authority to ensure Victorian hospitals can access blood and blood products when and where they're needed.

Those looking to give the gift of life by donating blood this holiday season can schedule an appointment by calling 13 14 95 or at lifeblood.com.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas

"It might not be something you can wrap and place under a tree, but by giving blood you can gift precious time with their loved ones at this special time of year."

"We are encouraging all Victorians who are able to give blood this Christmas to roll up their sleeve and do so – you could just be saving someone's life."

Quotes attributable to Lifeblood Chief Executive Officer Stephen Cornelissen AM

"The need for blood never stops and the festive season is no exception. Every donation can save up to three lives."

"Lifeblood centres across Victoria are open throughout the holiday season, including many on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Book a donation now and make a life-saving difference."

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