



Australian and New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion  
East Asia, Pacific Islands Travel Awards  
Sponsored by the ISBT

TRAVEL AWARD RECIPIENT REPORT

*Location of Meeting:* Perth, Western Australia

*Dates of Meeting:* 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014

*Travel Award Recipient Name:* Anthony Tabotabo

*Background of Recipient:* Medical Technologist at the Medical Laboratory at the National Referral Hospital, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

First of all, I would like start by thanking the ANZSBT for the grant and for awarding this huge sum of money. I have learnt a lot from this meeting. The following are just brief information on the most important ones.

**Educational activities at the meeting:**

1. *Oral Presentations:* Presentation on Transfusion information for patients with Intellectual disabilities by Liz Thrift, NZ - She mentioned so many important facts about how to deal with these patients especially on how to communicate with them and explain to them what is being done to them and in a much simpler way. I will also inform our nurses and doctors to also look into this.
2. *Poster Presentations:* Poster by Fiona King on 'Why use two when one will do '. This poster is relevant to us back home because most times in our hospital alot of the doctors are unsure of how they request blood. Most times they've ordered two units of red cells but only used one.
3. *New Technology / Trade exhibition:*  
Apheresis machine – I'm quite impressed by this machine which I'm afraid we do not have back home. If we got the chance to own this machine then blood products will not be wasted.  
Another classic machine that can help manage blood products by preventing blood transfusions to the patient who doesn't need one and provide the right blood product, at the right time, in the right dose, to the right patient who does.

Segment Sampling device - We do not have this device back home and it will help us minimise blood splatter and eliminates the use of scissors and their potential for sharps injuries.

Wastage reduction promotion material -The exhibitors are willing to send me stickers. These stickers upon arrival will be sent immediately to the theatre and also in our blood bank fridge.

4. *Information / knowledge gained from attending the meeting:*

The importance of blood storage and its components, which can lead to numerous changes and that it may contribute to organ failure in critically ill patients.

To choose the right blood for transfusion in children not from the supermarket (by Dr Paula Bulton-Maggs).

To decide when to consider to give red cells to patient when requested if needed based on the patients status and hemoglobin level. (More or less blood by Dr Jeffrey Carson). Transfusion guidelines.

Finally I have learnt from the speakers that more research is needed to fill the gaps and to add to the knowledge pool.

5. *Overall experience:*

This was a great meeting, I gained a lot of new knowledge that can be applied in daily work and I also made some great contacts with people who can help me in the future. I learnt so much about clinical aspect of transfusion and how to evaluate and monitor transfusion.

*Comments and feedback*

To sum up I have learnt so much from this meeting. As for me this is the first time I have been part of such meeting with great people and I'm grateful to meet new friends especially other award recipients from other countries and I'm also honored to meet the ANZSBT president, organizers and I would like to thank you all for your outstanding hospitality throughout the program.

Thank you very much and for the award.

*Anthony Tabotabo*

Information: your reports will be submitted to ANZSBT and ISBT Councils. Extracts may be included on the Societies websites and in electronic newsletters. The feedback from your experience is valued and may assist in continued funding of travel awards.