

Autumn NEWSLETTER 2020

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2020. We hope you all had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year period.

For anyone affected by the fires over summer, we hope you and your family are safe and well.

2020 Year of the Nurse and Midwife

The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated 2020 as the “Year of the Nurse and Midwife”, in honour of the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth.

As we move into a new decade it is timely to look at how the nurses' role in transfusion has changed. The role of the Transfusion Nurse has evolved significantly over the last 20 years. Not forgetting that there are other clinical staff and scientists working in similar roles working to improve transfusion practice and safety.

In Florence's day the first successful transfusions had only just taken place with James Blundell treating a number of women for post-partum haemorrhage in 1818. Transfusion was literally vein to vein.

ABO blood groups were discovered in 1900, paving the way for safer transfusions and allowing blood to be crossmatched to the patient. The RhD type wasn't discovered until 1940.

The first Blood Bank was established in Leningrad in 1932. Blood banks are now the backbone of our safe blood supply. Here in Australia the State and Territory blood transfusion services amalgamated to form the Australian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service in 1996. 2009 was international Year of the Blood Donor and the then Australian Red Cross Blood Service celebrated 80 years of service.

In 2017 the Blood Service celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Anti-D program that has saved the lives of so many babies from haemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN). This was also the year that the first plasma donor centre opened in Townsville.

In 2019 the Australian Red Cross blood Service changed its name to Australian Red Cross Lifeblood (or Lifeblood for short). The new name reflects a service expanding its horizons beyond simply blood donation, as Lifeblood also facilitates the donation of tissue, organs, breast milk and other life-giving biological products.

In 2011 the Australian National Blood Authority published the first patient blood management (PBM) module - Critical Bleeding/Massive Transfusion, paving the way for a further five in following years.

The National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards were developed and came into effect in 2011, and included standards for blood transfusion.

Nurses and Midwives have been involved in the administration of products to patients, the education of both patients and staff, the collection of products and the development of guidelines and protocols for their use.

The Transfusion Practitioner (TP) role was born from both the safety and haemovigilance cultures, where the greatest identified risk to the patient receiving a transfusion was human error. From this initial trigger for improved safety, the TP role has evolved to a multifaceted, highly specialised role, involved in both PBM and transfusion processes.

As the transfusion paradigm shifted from product to patient, the TP role evolved to include PBM, with an emphasis on the patient and the impact transfusion has on them.

A multidisciplinary team is required to drive both PBM and transfusion; the TP is recognised as a critical link in the multidisciplinary team. They are seen as a driving force for change, bridging the gap between the laboratory and clinical arenas. The TP plays a vital role in helping establish and embed PBM that improves patient and safety outcomes.' (Bielby, L. & Moss, R. 2018)

This year sees two of our TPs as members of the ANZSBT Council. Liz Thrift is Vice President and Debbie Pinchon is Honorary Treasurer. Congratulations to both on their roles.

Changes to the TP group

Retirement of Barbara Parker

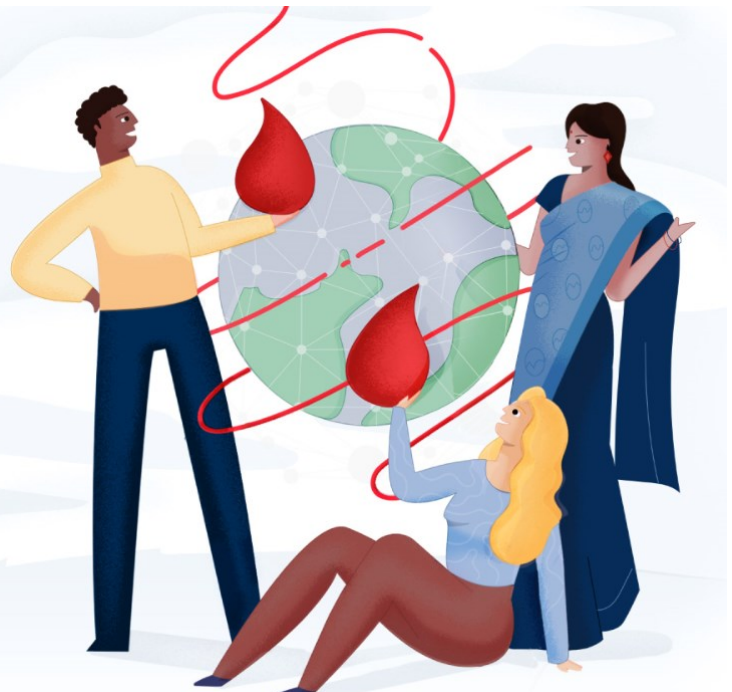
Barbara has been a Transfusion Nurse in South Australia, working at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital for many years.

Barbara has been a member of the TP group from its very early days and we are grateful for her input and support. We wish Barbara all the best in retirement.



By donating blood, you can save lives!

Everyone should have access to safe blood transfusions, when and where they need them.



<https://www.who.int/news-room/campaigns/world-blood-donor-day/2019/campaign-materials-world-blood-donor-day-2019>

Barbara's TP role will be taken on by Anne Canty and Amanda Catherwood and we welcome them to the group.

New Secretariat

Angie Monk and Trudi Verrall who have been our Chair and Secretary over the last couple of years have stepped down from the roles. We are very grateful for their work, keeping the group moving forward. Liz Thrift from New Zealand is kindly taking on the role of Chair and Fiona King, from the New Zealand Blood Service (NZBS), has taken on the Secretary role, to be ratified at the next AGM.

In addition, the ANZSBT Council has requested a review of the TP group to bring it in line with other ANZSBT standing committees. Committee members agreed this provided an exciting opportunity for the future and will formalise some of our current processes.

World Blood Donor day - June 14

World Blood Donor Day (WBDD) is an annual event to thank voluntary donors and encourage new donors. WBDD has the slogan "Share Life, Give Blood".

One of the aims of WBDD is to encourage younger donors to not only start but also continue donating, to ensure our donor pool remains strong. Many countries still have a shortage of donors so WBDD is vital for these countries to increase awareness of blood donation and increase their blood supply.

Why June 14? Because this is when Karl Landsteiner was born (in 1868) in Vienna, Austria.

What's happening around Australia and New Zealand

Western Australia

Blood wastage trending down with a significant decrease in DAPI (discards as a percentage of issuance) from 17/18 to 19/20.

WA Health is looking to support the greater use of subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIG) with paediatrics being one of the big user groups. The Department of Health (DOH) Strategic blood forum will occur in June 2020.

Work on a near miss reporting spreadsheet is underway. The WA State haemovigilance toolkit is currently being updated and reviewed by the Committee.

The DOH is aiming for a 55%/45% split in the use of apheresis platelets. There was some resistance initially but is now trending down. Paediatrics remains high but is to be expected with this patient cohort. Private hospitals are doing well in this area.

The DOH is arranging transfusion education for rural areas in 2020. If you want to organise Lifeblood education, liaise with Bev Quested of Lifeblood's Transfusion Policy and Education unit.

At the PBM conference in Brisbane 13-17 Feb, with a critical bleeding focus, Linda Campbell won best poster presentation.

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) is holding an registered nurse (RN) masterclass - To err is human: How to keep our patients safe in busy clinical areas with multiple interruptions.

Victoria

The RhD immunoglobulin (RhD-Ig) use in obstetrics audit has been finalised and is now available on the Blood Matters website. The iatrogenic anaemia audit - data collection is complete.

A survey of preoperative anaemia assessment and management pathways available in health services is under way.

The Serious Transfusion Incident Report 2017 -18 is available on the Blood Matters website.

Work is ongoing to increase the use of SClg in appropriate health services.

Rae French commenced in a new Blood Matters Scientist role to support scientists and assist with accreditation in the laboratory.

New South Wales

Blood Watch has published the following report - Haemovigilance in NSW: A Review of Blood and Blood Product incident notifications in NSW public hospitals: 2005-2016. This report looks not only looks at the haemovigilance incidents submitted for the NBA Report, but all blood and blood product incidents submitted to the NSW Incident Management System. There were 22,343 incidents between 2005-2016.

The NSW Clinical Excellence Commission (CEC) webpage has undergone a refresh, meaning all links to the Blood Watch page and associated resources have changed. There is automatic routing at the moment with an alert to update any links to external pages.

Blood Watch together with our Lifeblood medical advisor continue to support rural and remote local health districts with site visits.

Blood Watch has begun a series of webinars for NSW Blood Watch network partners to support staff new to the Blood Management Clinical Nurse Consultant role and, for Quality and Safety managers with responsibility for the NSQHS Blood Management Standard.

Like all areas, the NSW health system has been impacted severely by the response to COVID-19, with redeployment of some Ministry of Health resources. Therefore there are some delays with progressing other state-based projects.

Penny O'Beid will be on secondment to another agency for 13 weeks from 16 March. Teresa Benetos will be acting as the Blood Watch Program Lead during this time.

The best email for contacting the team at Blood Watch is:
CEC-bloodWatch@health.nsw.gov.au

Given staff movements, the generic email is the most reliable way to contact Blood Watch. Alternatively use the phone number on the Blood Watch webpage.

Northern Territory

Palmerston Regional Hospital which was opened 18 months ago has just passed accreditation coming in line with the 2nd Edition of the NSQHS Standards.

We are now preparing for Top End Health Service (TEHS) accreditation in June this year. This will include four of the six NT hospitals: Royal Darwin Hospital, Gove District Hospital, Palmerston Regional Hospital and Katherine District Hospital.

Things are looking good for Standard 7. We had a mock accreditation recently and passed!

Key events 2020

21st Annual NATA symposium, April 23-24, Athens, Greece

<https://www.nataonline.com/content/21st-annual-nata-symposium-athens-april-23-24-2020>

World Blood Donor day June 14.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/campaigns/world-blood-donor-day>

ISBT 36th international congress, June 6-10, Barcelona, Spain.

<https://www.isbtweb.org/barcelona/>

Blood 2020 November 15-18, Adelaide.

<http://www.blood2020.com/>

Abstracts close: June 18th.

Publications of interest:

Bielby L, Moss R, Mo A, McQuilten Z, Wood E. The role of the transfusion practitioner in the management of anaemia. ISBT Science Series. 2019;0(0).

Davies H, Coventry L, Jacob A, Stoneman L, Jacob E. Blood sampling through peripheral intravenous cannulas: a look at current practice in Australia. Collegian, 2019.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.colegn.2019.07.010>

Bielby L, Moss R. Patient blood management and the importance of the Transfusion Practitioner role to embed this into practice. Transfusion Medicine <http://doi.org/10.1111/tme/12526> 2018.

Briggs E, Hawkins D, Hodges, Monk A. Small volume vacuum phlebotomy tubes: a controlled before and after study of a patient blood management initiative in an Australian adult intensive care unit Critical Care and Resuscitation. volume 21 number 4. December 2019

Your Transfusion Professional Representatives

Area	Name
Australian Capital Territory	Maria Burgess
New South Wales	Penny OBeid
New Zealand	Liz Thrift
New Zealand Blood Service	Fiona King
Northern Territory	Susan Dalkie
Queensland	Susan Kay
South Australia	Anne Canty & Amanda Catherwood
Tasmania	Dawn Richardson
Victoria	Chris Akers
Western Australia	Angie Monk
Australian Blood Service	Bev Quested
ANZSBT Council	Liz Thrift
BloodSafe e-learning	Trudi Verrall