



Australian Red Cross

BLOOD SERVICE

MEDIA RELEASE

16 April 2008

The ANZAC's gave so much. Now it's Bankstown's turn.

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS) is encouraging people to be true to Australia's long history of mateship by requesting Bankstown residents to donate blood in the lead up to the ANZAC long weekend.

Since 1929, the lives of many Australians have been saved through the generous blood donations of ordinary Aussies.

Due to less collection days and the limited shelf life of some blood components long weekends, such as the ANZAC long weekend can challenge the blood supply. For example, platelets only last 5 days before they expire.

Local Nursing Unit Manager Meredith Donoghue, for the Australian Red Cross Blood Service Mobile Unit said 1200 blood donation are required each day across NSW, with approximately 80 patients a day requiring platelets.

"Mateship is something that Australians identify with and by donating blood for the ANZAC long weekend, our donors can be safe in the knowledge that their donation will help to save the lives of up to three people"

"We encourage the community to make an appointment to donate blood in the week leading up to the ANZAC long weekend and the days following.

"These donations will allow us to maintain our supplies to those people in hospital over the holiday period." Meredith concluded.

One in three Australians will need blood or blood products at some stage during their lifetime but only one in thirty people currently give blood.

Giving blood is one of the best ways to make a direct difference to someone's life and help your fellow Australians this ANZAC long weekend.

Mobile Blood Service

BANKSTOWN RSL CLUB

**Sir Joseph Banks Room
32 Kitchener Parade**

**Monday 21 April, 2.00pm – 7.00pm
Tuesday 22 April, 2.00pm – 7.00pm
Wednesday 23 April, 2.00pm – 7.00pm
Thursday 24 April, 10.00am – 3.00pm**

**No Appointment Required - New Donors Welcome
Please bring donor card or photo ID**

**For further information or to organize an interview please contact:
Renata Csanyi, Australian Red Cross Blood Service, 02 9229 4539**

About the Australian Red Cross Blood Service

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service is a national not-for-profit organisation, supported by the governments of Australia, responsible for providing the Australian community with safe, high quality blood and blood products. This is possible through the support of more than half a million voluntary blood donors. To make an appointment call 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au