



Speech by

WARREN PITT

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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RED CROSS BLOOD BANK

Mr PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (7.09 p.m.): Today I draw the attention of the House to the vital work being performed by the Red Cross through its blood product and transfusion services and its maintenance of a donor register. I am sure every member knows of a relative, a friend or a neighbour who has at some time required a blood transfusion.

In 1998-99 Queensland Health will provide \$14m for capital and operating costs for the Red Cross Blood Bank. The State meets 50% of its capital costs, some \$612,000; and 60% of its operating costs, amounting to \$13,656,188. The Commonwealth picks up the remaining costs. Capital costs for the Red Cross Blood Bank cover buildings and equipment, information technology, testing equipment, vehicles and blood collection caravans.

From a single blood donation, up to 13 products can be produced, all serving a vital function to others in need. Typically those who receive blood from donations include: patients suffering shock; those who lose 20% or more of their blood through an accident or trauma; persons undergoing surgery; sufferers of leukemia; women in child birth; transplant patients; and persons afflicted with haemophilia.

Most of us in this place would have been moved by Tjandamurra O'Shane's heroic fight for survival after suffering severe burns in an horrific incident in a Cairns schoolyard. Thanks to the efforts of his doctors, blood and blood products from over 100 donors—and of course his own remarkable courage—Tjandamurra recovered from his ordeal. There are many people living in our community who owe their lives to the generosity of blood donors.

I am a regular donor, as are many members. I understand the Minister, who is also a regular donor, is going to give blood just prior to the Easter period. Her blood and that of others may save a life. Over Easter the call on blood products to meet the need created by trauma arising out of traffic accidents is quite high. I urge all members to follow the Minister's example and donate blood to the blood bank. We should make a deposit now; in the future we may need to make a withdrawal.
