



The Honourable Tim Nicholls MP
Minister for Health and Ambulance Services

17 SEP 2025

C-ECTF-25/18084

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Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliament
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: ClerksOffice@Parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Laurie

Neil

I write in response to your letter regarding petition number 4253-25, tabled in Parliament on 26 August 2025, in relation to the reinstatement of an Australian Red Cross Lifeblood (Lifeblood) mobile donation unit to Maryborough.

Firstly, I would like to extend my gratitude for the interest in reinstating a mobile blood donation service to Maryborough. This demonstrates a profound sense of compassion and civic responsibility, as donating blood is a selfless act that has the power to save lives and bring hope to individuals and families in critical need.

I am informed that in 2015, Lifeblood made the difficult decision to close the Maryborough donor centre. As part of a review of its network, Lifeblood determined that only one donor centre was needed in the Fraser Coast region, and the Hervey Bay Donor Centre was best placed to support the growing demand for plasma.

As you may be aware, Lifeblood manages blood donation across Australia on behalf of all governments, under an agreement with the National Blood Authority. This includes decisions on the operation, establishment and maintenance of the national network of static and mobile donation collection and production capability, which Lifeblood manages in consideration of sophisticated demographic insights, operational parameters essential to service provision, and logistical nuances specific to handling such a precious resource.

As such, I commit to passing this petition on to Lifeblood for its consideration when next reviewing its donation network infrastructure and resourcing. I understand Lifeblood has undertaken to provide an update to Mr John Barounis MP, Member for Maryborough, in late 2025.

I am incredibly grateful of any and all Queenslanders who seek to roll up their sleeves and support our need for blood and blood products. However, it is important to note that the supply of blood to all areas of Australia is not impacted by the location of Lifeblood's donor centres and, given the vastness of our country, it is not possible to collect blood everywhere in order to meet Australia's blood supply needs. While not everyone can donate blood due to their location, there are other ways to provide support, such as signing up to be an organ donor on the Australian Organ Donor Register, or registering to be a stem cell donor (18 to 35-year olds, particularly men), with Stem Cell Donors Australia.

Tim Nicholls

I greatly appreciate that Australians, and Maryborough residents in particular, are eager to help when called for, in the matter of blood donations. I encourage those who are able to make the trip from Maryborough, to visit the Hervey Bay Donor Centre, as your donations are welcomed.

Thank you for raising this important matter with me and I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Nicholls', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tim Nicholls MP

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services
Member for Clayfield