John Elferink  
Minister for Health

**Red Cross Blood Service seeking 1200 new donors in Darwin**

18 February 2016

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service is on a drive to recruit 115,000 new donors right across Australia, 1200 in the Darwin region.

One in three Australians will need blood in their lifetime yet only one in 30 Australians donate blood. Regular users of donated blood include cancer and blood disease patients, road trauma victims and women during child birth.

In the past 12 months there were almost 9000 whole blood and plasma donations made at the Darwin Blood Donor Centre.

An estimated 9 million Australians are eligible to give blood but only 500,000 actively do so, leading to the Blood Service reaching out to those who have never donated before.

In the Territory there are currently 3600 active blood donors in Darwin but the Blood Service was looking to recruit about 1200 new blood donors from Darwin in 2016.

Northern Territory Minister for Health John Elferink said he had been donating blood for over 30 years and that he encouraged the Darwin community to get involved and donate blood.

“The donation of blood could be the difference between saving a life.”

“The Blood Service is grateful for the ongoing support of Darwin’s existing blood donors, like Mr Elferink, but we also need the help of first time donors,” Australian Red Cross Blood Service Darwin Donor Centre community relations officer Ernie Rondot said.

“This year the Blood Service needs 115,000 new donors Australia wide to make sure blood is available at critical times over long weekends and during the flu season.”

To make an appointment call 131 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au.

**Media Contact:** Dimitra Grehl 0439 640 895