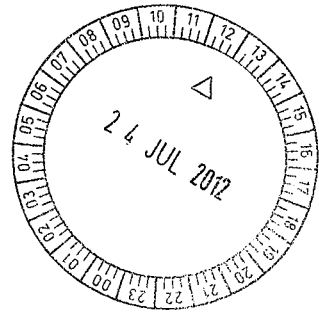




**Australian Red Cross
BLOOD SERVICE**



20th July 2012

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Western Australia Legislative Council
Parliament House
Perth WA 6000

Dear Sir

**Australian Red Cross Blood Service – Western Australia Operations
Your Reference: Petition No 163**

Thank you for your letter dated 2nd July 2012 concerning Petition Number 163 and relating to the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and our operations in Western Australia.

By way of response I have outlined below our current plans for WA and as I am sure you will understand, these plans are regularly reviewed and take into account changes in demand, regulations and the labour market.

- **Perth Processing Centre (Processing & Testing)** - The Blood Service has committed \$4 million to refurbishment the Perth processing and testing facilities at our principal site in Perth. Work will commence during 2012 and the project is expected to complete in mid 2014. This refurbishment will provide sufficient capacity and efficiencies to meet expected growth for at least the next 20 years.
- **Perth Processing Centre (Distribution)** - On completion of the above refurbishment of the processing and testing areas, a further refurbishment of the distribution area in the same premises is planned. The exact costing of this project is still to be fully determined but will be significant and form part of this overall considerable investment by the Blood Service in Western Australia.
- **Refresh of WA Blood Donor Centres** - There are 11 static site Blood Donation Centres in WA, as well as one Donor Mobile Unit (prime mover trailer), and one Demountable Mobile collection facility (mobile equipment using community halls etc). The Blood Service is currently part way through implementing a comprehensive 'refresh' strategy for each of these centres with many almost complete. This investment in WA centres will improve the donor experience at each of the sites well into the future.
- **Expanding Overall Capacity in WA** – The Blood Service is currently finalising plans to expand the operations of several of our static sites, including Albany and Bunbury, to increase capacity and donor access across the range of collection streams (whole blood, apheresis plasma and apheresis platelets). We continue to actively seek new

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rural mobile sites for our mobile collections based in Bunbury and also the mobile collections within the wider Perth metropolitan area.

- **Cord Blood Bank** - We recently opened a brand new, state of the art Cord Blood Bank in conjunction with Rotary WA. This facility is well advanced in validation and regulatory activities and is expected to become operational in late 2012.

The Blood Service regularly reviews its operations to ensure the best use of resources and to make certain that we can deliver sufficient blood and blood products in a manner that is safe and efficient. This includes our collection sites.

The Albany and Kalgoorlie donor centres currently collect relatively low volumes. Kalgoorlie in particular has experienced staff recruitment difficulties in recent years. The two centres continue to be evaluated and we hope they remain viable.

Australia enjoys one of the safest blood supplies in the world due to the underpinning framework of regulation and governance between the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the National Blood Authority and the Blood Service.

Should you require further assistance in these matters please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CR', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

CRAIG RUTHERFORD
Donor Services Manager - WA

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