

MEDIA RELEASE



The Hon **David Hawker** MP
Federal Member for Wannon



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ARE POLLIES THE TYPE TO SAVE LIVES?

Federal Member for Wannon, David Hawker, has found out he is exactly the type to save lives.

In fact, the Australian Red Cross Blood Service has declared Mr Hawker fAbulous!

At a year of the Blood Donor Exhibition held in Parliament House, Canberra, Australian Red Cross Blood Service nurses were on hand to “prick a pollie”.

“I’ve found out that like 38% of the population, I’m blood type A,” Mr Hawker said.

“Because there are a lot of A type people, a lot of A type blood is needed. A blood types can help other As and also people with AB blood types.”

Mr Hawker said there is a constant need for blood patients across Australia.

“Whatever your blood type, I urge all Western Victorians to contact the Blood Service and make an appointment to give blood. It’s a great community service as in less than an hour you can save three lives,” he said.

2009 has been designated Year of the Blood Donor by the Federal Government, marking 80 years of Red Cross blood services in Australia. Currently only 538,000 Australians, around 3% of the population, donate blood, yet over 21,000 life-saving blood donations are needed each week for the treatment of cancer, heart, stomach and bowel disease, accident or trauma or to address complications in pregnancy and childbirth.

1 in 3 Australians will need blood. Only 1 in 30 give blood. That’s why Year of the Blood Donor acknowledges the life-saving role blood donors play and encourages others to find out their blood type, roll up their sleeves and give.

“Almost anyone aged 16-70 years can give blood and all types of blood are needed. It takes less than an hour to donate and can save up to three lives,” Mr Hawker said.

Find out more at 13 14 95 or www.donateblood.com.au.

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