

FACT SHEET

HUMAN TISSUE AMENDMENT BILL 2008

The Bill proposes minor amendments to the Human Tissue Act 1985 to permit young persons who have attained the age of 16 years to donate blood without parental and medical consent being required. Currently only persons who have attained the age of 18 years may donate blood without parental and medical consent.

Australian Health Ministers agreed in 2007 that all jurisdictions will have legislation in place which permits blood donation from the age of 16 without parental and/or medical consent being required.

The amendments will bring the laws relating to blood donation in line with the laws in the majority of other States and Territories, namely NSW, South Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

The effect will be to assist the Australian Red Cross Blood Service to recruit new blood donors in Tasmania.