

## Best Practice for Blood Donation – LGBTQIA+ Community

### **Ms HADDAD question to MINISTER for HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH and WELLBEING**

My question is from members of the LGBTQIA+ community. The Red Cross Lifeblood service has removed the abstinence requirement for blood plasma donations from gay and bisexual men and transgender women, which is a very welcome move. Lifeblood has indicated it will extend this reform to whole blood donations, but no timeframe has been provided for this change. The proposed screening questions for whole-blood donations fall short of global best practice, and lack the clarity and consistency seen in the UK, US and Canada. This will potentially discourage eligible donors.

Given the critical need to maximise safe whole-blood donations, has the minister consulted with medical and community stakeholders before endorsing this approach? Will the minister seek a clear timeframe for implementing this reform, and ensure the screening process reflects international best practice to maximise the opportunity for much-needed blood donation?