

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) MOBILE COLLECTION SERVICE

Statement by Member for Joondalup

MR O'GORMAN (Joondalup) [12.52 pm]: I wish to acknowledge the excellent work being undertaken by the Australian Red Cross (Western Australia) mobile collection service. I have been involved with this group for eight to 10 years and have coordinated mobile collection unit visits to the Curtin University of Technology. As all members know, collection of blood from donors has become increasingly difficult in recent years because of the threat of HIV and other blood-borne diseases. The recent advent of mad cow disease in Great Britain has excluded a further group from donating, of which I am one. Mobile donor service coordinator Kevin Cumper did not take this as a setback, but as a challenge. On Tuesday, 7 August, the Australian Red Cross (WA) mobile section launched a youth donor program. The main targets of this program are high school students between the ages of 15 and 17. This initiative will introduce a whole new group of donors to the system. It is also a way for young people to contribute to their community. An added incentive to take part is a perpetual trophy called the Vampire Prentice Cup, which will be awarded to the school that achieves the greatest number of donations in a year. I know that many high schools in the Joondalup electorate are keen to participate in this initiative. The first visit of the mobile donor unit to the Joondalup electorate will be to Edith Cowan University on 10 September. I urge all members to invite schools in their electorates to participate in the youth blood donor program.