

RED CROSS BLOOD BANK, CRITICAL LEVEL OF BLOOD STOCKS

1125. Mr MURRAY to the Minister for Health:

Is the minister aware that blood supplies in Western Australia are at a critically low level?

Mr KUCERA replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. I also thank the member for the excellent work he is doing in health services in his area.

The Australian Red Cross has informed me that it is only a matter of days before blood stocks in this State run out. Around 300 donations are required to lift levels. The situation is critical. The Red Cross is appealing for public help and has asked me to urge all eligible Western Australians to please give blood. Blood donations go to premature babies, elderly people, accident victims and people with life-threatening illnesses. Two weeks ago I visited the fine people at the Red Cross blood bank. They are doing a tremendous job. Only about three per cent -

The SPEAKER: Order! It sounds like a Coles cafeteria in here. If members want to have conversations they should not stay in here.

Mr KUCERA: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for recognising the seriousness of this issue. Resources at the blood bank are critical. Strict guidelines are in place to ensure that blood is collected under the safest possible conditions. However, only three per cent of eligible Australians give blood. Obviously some people cannot give blood. I urge everyone in Western Australia who can give blood to help out the blood bank in this critical situation.