Friday, 17 May, 2019

St George Hospital blood drive saves 162 lives

St George Hospital staff have been saving lives in and out of the office by making 54 donations as part of a national blood drive.

With nine blood donations, staff from Operating Theatres were the lead donor department, edging out the Cancer Care Centre who were in second place with five.

Four departments, 7B Haematology, Allied Health, the Emergency Department and Gastro Hepatology, were joint third with three donations each.

Samantha Connelly, Clinical Nurse Consultant for Blood and Blood Products, St George Hospital, said it was important to recognise and say thank you to the hospital staff who gave their time – and blood – to help others in need.

"There're a vast range of people who need blood products – whether it be for a one-off treatment, or regular transfusions to stay alive or remain healthy," Ms Connelly said.

"Donated blood can be made into 22 different medical treatments. These treatments can help people being cared for who have cancer, experienced trauma or need to undergo surgery.

"While our organised blood drive for this year has wrapped up, I'd like to encourage staff and the community to continue to donate – there is always a need," Ms Connelly said.

John Feist, Australian Red Cross Blood Service spokesperson, said the fantastic effort by St George Hospital staff will save the lives of 162 people.

"The donations are part of the National Health Services Challenge, which runs until the end of June, so there's still time to donate," said Mr Fiest.

The National Health Services Challenge is part of the Red 25 program, where groups and organisations around Australia unite to save lives through blood donation.

Any business, individual or group can donate as part of Red 25. Donations are tracked online, allowing groups to track how many lives they have saved.

Call the Australian Red Cross Blood Service today on 13 14 95 or visit www.donateblood.com.au to make an appointment online.