



The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 8 June 2011

PREMIER OPENS NEW BLOOD SERVICE PROCESSING CENTRE

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell today opened the Red Cross Blood Service's new Sydney Processing Centre, to help meet an expected doubling in demand for blood donations over the next decade.

The \$73 million facility at Green Square, jointly funded by the NSW and Federal Governments, will process every unit of blood donated in NSW and the ACT and replaces an out-dated facility in the CBD.

"There are few more critical health issues in this State than the maintenance and delivery of a safe, secure and affordable bloody supply," Mr O'Farrell said.

"Without a reliable blood supply, our hospitals would grind to a halt and lives would be put at risk.

"We are extraordinarily lucky in Australia to be able to provide access for patients to exceptionally high quality blood and blood products and Australians are generous with their donations.

"This new facility will process 449,000 units of blood donated annually in NSW and the ACT, accounting for 34 per cent of the nation's blood supply.

"The Sydney Processing Centre ensures the Australian Red Cross Blood Service can safely and reliably meet a doubling of demand in the next decade as our population grows and demands on the health system increase.

"With this new state of the facility, the NSW Government is delighted to extend its long-standing partnership with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, which solely manages the collection, production, distribution and administration of blood donations and blood products from donors to recipients.

"Today's opening is also a timely reminder for healthy people to donate blood, with supplies expected to run low over the long weekend."

To make an appointment to give blood call 13 14 95 or visit www.donateblood.com.au

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