



# Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Australia

*Unifying Support and Genetics*



## CONTENTS

- From our Chair - Pg. 2
- International Thalassaemia Day 2026 - Pg. 3
- Have Your Say: Victorian Multicultural Health Survey - Pg. 4
- 50th Anniversary Silent Auction - Pg. 4
- Peter Mac Educational Inservice - Pg. 5
- Trivia Nights - Pg. 5

## Connect with TASCA: Latest News and Updates

**Phone:** (03) 7015 5637

**Email:** [Info@tasca.org.au](mailto:Info@tasca.org.au)

**Address:** Room 44, Barry Neve Wing  
Moorleigh Community Village Bentleigh  
East, Vic 3165 Australia

TASCA acknowledges Australia's first people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and provide our services to those affected by genetic haemoglobin disorders. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to Elders both past and present.

**Stay connected, stay informed, and look forward to our monthly newsletters!**

## TASCA MONTHLY

---



**Pat Bollard**

Chairperson  
Thalassaemia and Sickle  
Cell Australia

## From our Chair

---

The office has been a hive of activity this month as we prepare for a number of important events over the next few months.

Thalassaemia Day on May 8 is of global significance and we share with our international collaborators in acknowledging the importance of awareness and advocacy. I encourage everyone to access the resources from the TIF website and help us draw attention and share experiences with the broader community. Look out for landmarks 8n your area/state which will light up in support of this important event.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event is an important milestone, bringing together patients, carers, medical professionals, international guests and representatives from State government. A special highlight of the event will be the launch of our book. Thank you to those who have registered to attend and don't forget to have our caricaturist draw you! I look forward to seeing everyone there on May 24th.

Sickle Cell Day on June 19 is also aimed at increasing knowledge and awareness of Sickle Cell Disease on the international stage. This year's theme is "Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease" and aims to highlight the disparities in care and the urgent need to improve patient survival rates. Look out for more information on our website and

social media platforms on resources and light-ups to mark the day.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary book has been in progress since last year and has involved research, interviews, planning and design. It has taken many months and is now at printing stage. This project was undertaken by Madi Lalor who took the project from inception to completion, working closely with staff, committee members, patients, carers and medical professionals. Her dedication, commitment, diligence and compassion are evident in the final product. Madi has now moved on from TASCA but I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge her work and to wish her well in all future endeavours. Without you, Madi, this book would not be as wonderful as it is. Thank you.

## TASCA MONTHLY

### INTERNATIONAL THALASSAEMIA DAY 2026

Every year, *International Thalassaemia Day* is celebrated on May 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a day for the global Thalassaemia community to come together to raise awareness, honour lives, and demand action.

This year's theme is: **'Hidden no More. Finding the undiagnosed, supporting the unseen.'** This International Thalassaemia Day, we will shine a light on those who remain unseen and call on the world to bring them into view.

#### How can you get involved?

##### Share your story.

TIF's "Your Journey, Your Story" initiative is an important platform to share your voice and lived experiences within the Thalassaemia community. Sharing your story is a great way to raise awareness and bring together those who may be facing a similar situation. You can submit your story to [info@tasca.org.au](mailto:info@tasca.org.au) and to the [Thalassaemia International Federation](#) (TIF) to be published.

##### Bring Thal to Light!

This year, the following landmarks and monuments will be illuminated in red in honour of International Thalassaemia Day:

- AAMI Park – VIC
- Monash City, Civic Centre – VIC
- Glen Eira Town Hall – VIC

- Bolte Bridge – VIC
- Brisbane City Hall – QLD
- King George Square – QLD
- Victoria Bridge – QLD
- Sir Leo Hielscher Bridges – QLD
- Trafalgar Bridge – WA
- Marlston Hill Lookout – WA
- Richmond Reserve – WA
- Council House, Perth – WA
- Parliament House – SA
- Unley Town Hall – SA
- Riverbank Footbridge – SA
- plus many more!

Bring along your family and friends to these landmarks and snap a pic! Don't forget to share your beautiful pictures by tagging us and using the hashtags **'#ITD2026'**, **'#HiddenNoMore'** and **'#VisibilityVoiceValue'**.

For more information on illuminated landmarks and monuments, feel free to contact the TASCA office at **(03) 7015 5637** or [info@tasca.org.au](mailto:info@tasca.org.au).

##### TIF Resources

The Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF) has a range of great resources, social media frames, and posters that you can use to spread awareness in your local community. You can download these for free [here!](#)



## TASCA MONTHLY

### HAVE YOUR SAY: VICTORIAN MULTICULTURAL HEALTH SURVEY



Victoria is one of the most culturally diverse states in Australia, with people representing more than 300 ancestries, speaking over 290 languages

and practicing more than 200 faiths.

This diversity is one of Victoria's greatest strengths. However, not all Victorians experience equitable access to, or outcomes from, healthcare.

The Victorian Government wants to hear from multicultural communities about their healthcare needs and priorities through the 2026 Victorian Multicultural Health Survey.

#### About the survey.

The survey asks about:

- the health issues that are important to multicultural communities
- healthcare preferences and experiences of multicultural communities
- how to improve service access and navigation
- how to improve use of interpreters and translated information in health services
- how to improve cultural inclusion and address racism and discrimination in health services.

Survey findings will be shared in a public report, that will inform health policies, plans and programs, including the next Multicultural

Health Action Plan and broader whole-of-government work following Victoria's Multicultural Review.

We encourage you to share this survey with your networks and communities. People can complete the survey themselves or ask a carer or health service staff to complete it on their behalf.

The survey is available in 14 different languages.

#### Take part today.

Support your community to have their **say**.

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY SILENT AUCTION

Congratulations to all the lucky winners! We would like to thank everyone who participated in our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Online Silent Auction.

Through winning bids and donations, we raised over \$800! We would also like to extend a heartfelt thanks to every business who donated auction items – we are truly grateful for your support.

## TASCA MONTHLY

### PETER MAC EDUCATIONAL INSERVICE

A recent in-service session was delivered at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, supporting nursing staff in building their understanding of sickle cell disease and patient care.

The session focused on how sickle cell disease may present in a clinical setting, key considerations for care and recognising signs of complications. There was a strong emphasis on practical, chairside knowledge that staff can apply in their day-to-day roles.

In addition, the session highlighted TASCA's role in supporting patients and families, including services, resources and advocacy we provide. It also explored how healthcare professionals can connect patients with TASCA for additional support beyond the clinical setting.

We thank the team at Peter Mac for their engagement and thoughtful questions throughout the session. Opportunities like this are an important part of TASCA's work in strengthening awareness across healthcare settings and improving patient outcomes.



### TRIVIA NIGHTS

Missed the last Trivia Night? Not to worry – TASCA will be joining Wednesday Trivia Nights at the General Public, Dingley.

Get your trivia knowledge ready and join the TASCA team for a fun-filled night! All TASCA members are encouraged to attend.

Upcoming trivia nights:

- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May**
- **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

You can reserve your spot [here](#). We hope to see you there!



8 May 2026

# Hidden *no more*

Finding the Undiagnosed  
Supporting the Unseen

#ITD2026 #HiddenNoMore #VisibilityVoiceValue



8  
MAY

INTERNATIONAL  
THALASSAEMIA DAY



[www.internationalthalassaemiaday.org](http://www.internationalthalassaemiaday.org)

# CALENDAR

**8<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

INTERNATIONAL THALASSAEMIA DAY

**12<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

**18<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

**MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>**

TASCA 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# CONNECT WITH US!

FIND TASCA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@tascaust



## BECOME A MEMBER AND SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

GIVE TASCA A VOICE AND BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

- You can help support TASCA and its valuable work.
- You can be inspired by stories about the people we support.
- You will be updated regularly on medical advances and clinical trials.
- You will be invited to member events and programs.
- You will belong to a community supporting people living with a genetic haemoglobin condition.
- You will be part of a community voice advocating for better access to medical care.

Your membership will support Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Australia's important work.

As a not-for-profit organisation, we need the support of the community to provide ongoing education, support and advocacy for the benefit of those living with, or touched by, genetic haemoglobin conditions.

Membership is open to all interested individuals and organisations who want to support our mission.



**Thalassaemia and  
Sickle Cell Australia**

*Unifying Support with Genetics*

Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Australia  
Moorleigh Community Village, Barry Neve Wing  
92-94 Bignell Road, Bentleigh East  
VIC 3165 Australia  
T: +61 3 7015 5637

[www.tasca.org.au](http://www.tasca.org.au) [info@tasca.org.au](mailto:info@tasca.org.au)