



Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Australia

Unifying Support and Genetics



8
MAY

INTERNATIONAL
THALASSAEMIA DAY

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Connect with TASCA: Latest News and Updates

Phone: (03) 7015 5637

Email: 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

May has been a very busy month at TASCA, with both International Thalassaemia Day, National Volunteers' Week and also our 50th Anniversary and Book Launch.

The anniversary celebration was an exciting, heart-warming way in which to mark an important milestone, to connect with many families and community members, to hear stories of courage and resilience and to look at the future.

I must take this opportunity to thank Dr John Malios and Dr Jim Vadolas for their insightful presentations and unflagging support of the work we do, but also of the work yet to come.

A special thank you to Ms Georgie Crozier, Shadow Minister for Health, Shadow Minister for Ambulance Services, Shadow Minister for Medical Research and Shadow Minister for Health Infrastructure, and Mr Ryan Batchelor, Labor MP for the Southern Metropolitan Region, for championing this milestone and also for highlighting the importance of the work that TASCA does for our community. Thank you also to Glen Eira Councillor Kimberly Young for her encouragement and support.

To Gabriella, Eugenia and Diamanto thank you so much for your bravery in sharing your personal stories of love, strength and dedication. You are truly inspirational.

To Madi for your commitment to our anniversary book, thank you. Your diligence in collecting the material, conducting the interviews and setting out the book have culminated in a publication that truly captures TASCA's history.

To our colleagues Martha (ThalNSW), Nivedita and Vivek (TASCANZ) as well as Dr Androulla Eleftheriou from Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF) your support is always valued and appreciated.

To the staff and volunteers, thank you for all your work in planning this event.

Finally, to the TASCA Committee, especially Peter and Jo, thank you all for ensuring our anniversary celebration was a great success.

I hope you all enjoy this month's newsletter.

TASCA MONTHLY**INTERNATIONAL THALASSAEMIA
DAY 2026**

Friday 8th May was International Thalassaemia Day. Every year, the Thalassaemia community comes together to raise awareness for the condition, and to support those living with it. This year's theme, 'Hidden No More: Finding the Undiagnosed, Supporting the Unseen' is a call to action – to ensure that every person affected by Thalassaemia is recognised, counted, and cared for.

TASCA illuminated landmarks across Australia in red, to raise awareness for the Thalassaemia community and their families. TASCA staff members also visited treatment centres around Melbourne, connecting with patients and healthcare workers.



Victoria Bridge, QLD



Tasman Bridge, TAS



Story Bridge, QLD



Glen Eira Town Hall, VIC



TASCA MONTHLY

TASCA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Australia, formerly known as the ‘Thalassaemia Society of Victoria (TSV)’ was founded in 1976 by a group of medical professionals overseeing the care of Australians living with Thalassaemia.

50 years on, and we’re still going strong, delivering sensible information, resources and support to all Australian’s and their families living with a genetic haemoglobin condition.

Sunday, 24th May, TASCA celebrated its 50-year anniversary and the launch of our commemorative book. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those who celebrated this remarkable milestone with us – your continued support for our organisation and what we do helps to raise awareness and support for our wonderful community.



Styled by MEVENTS.
Contact [Vikki](#) for all your event styling enquiries.

TASCA MONTHLY

TASCA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS



Cake made by Litza & Co Cupcakes.

Contact [Litza](#) for all your sweet treat needs.



TASCA MONTHLY

TASCA'S 50TH COMMEMORATIVE BOOK: NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Our 50th anniversary commemorative book is now available for purchase.

Featuring stories from healthcare professionals, patients and their families and key organisations, this book tells the story of Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Australia's history, beginning back in 1976.

Please contact the TASCA office at **(03) 7015 5637** or info@tasca.org.au to grab your copy.



KINGSTON CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY AWARDS

TASCA was nominated for a Kingston Community Award this year, recognizing the work we continue to do in supporting individuals and families impacted by Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell.

The evening was a wonderful celebration of the many volunteers and community groups making a positive impact across the Kingston community. It was inspiring to hear the stories and achievements of so many dedicated groups and individuals.

Congratulations to our neighbours at Moorleigh Community Village, with Bayside Community Emergency Relief announced as this year's award recipient. It was fantastic to see their important work recognised and celebrated.



TASCA MONTHLY

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

In celebration of National Volunteer Week, held from 18-24th May, we would like to introduce you to our wonderful team of volunteers!

SHOSHI:

Volunteering, to me, is about contributing time in a meaningful way, even in small contributions, and being part of something larger that creates real impact for individuals and communities.

I am currently studying Biomedical Science and Science at Monash University, with a strong interest in genetics and its application to understanding and supporting people living with genetic conditions. This has been shaped by research I've done on conditions such as sickle cell anaemia, which highlighted both the scientific and human aspects of genetic disease.

Volunteering in this space feels especially meaningful as it connects my studies with real-world communities, and I value the opportunity to learn, contribute, and support organisations working in this area.



TASCA volunteers at 50th Anniversary Afternoon Tea: Con, Elizabeth, Roubi and Shoshana



TASCA volunteers at 50th Anniversary Afternoon Tea: Con, Elizabeth, Roubi and Shoshana

ELIZABETH AND ROUBI:

Volunteering means a lot to us because it allows us to support others and give back to the community in a meaningful way.

Our uncle Peter, lives with Thalassaemia, and growing up seeing the challenges that come with the condition has had a big impact on us. Watching how it can affect everyday life has made us more compassionate, understanding, and appreciative of how important community really is.

Elizabeth - I am a dedicated primary school teacher who is also studying Steiner Education.
Roubi - I work in customer service and have completed a degree in Psychological Science.

We love going for walks, spending time in nature, reading, and spending time with family and friends and our cat Bella ❤️

TASCA MONTHLY

TASCA TRIVIA NIGHTS

Trivia nights are back! Last time we placed 4th, so now we are aiming for the top!

Missed the last Trivia Night? Not to worry – there are still a few more dates that you can attend. 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 17th June
- Wednesday 15th July

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



NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR WEEK: 8TH-14TH JUNE

National Blood Donor Week is almost here!

Did you know?

1 in 3 people will need blood. This means that 1 donation is required every **18 seconds**. If you've been thinking about donating, now is the perfect time to book your appointment. Making an appointment is an easy and quick process, and will help save many lives. Book your blood donation appointment [here](#). Every donation counts.

You can also join the **Thalassaemia & Sickle Cell Australia** Lifeblood team. People living with Thalassaemia or Sickle Cell Disease are among the one-third of Australians who will need blood products in their lifetime – yet only 3% of Australians donate. Join our team [here](#) and start saving lives.

Additionally, donate between June 8th and July 19th to receive a limited-edition bandage!



Image sourced from: [Lifeblood Australia](#)

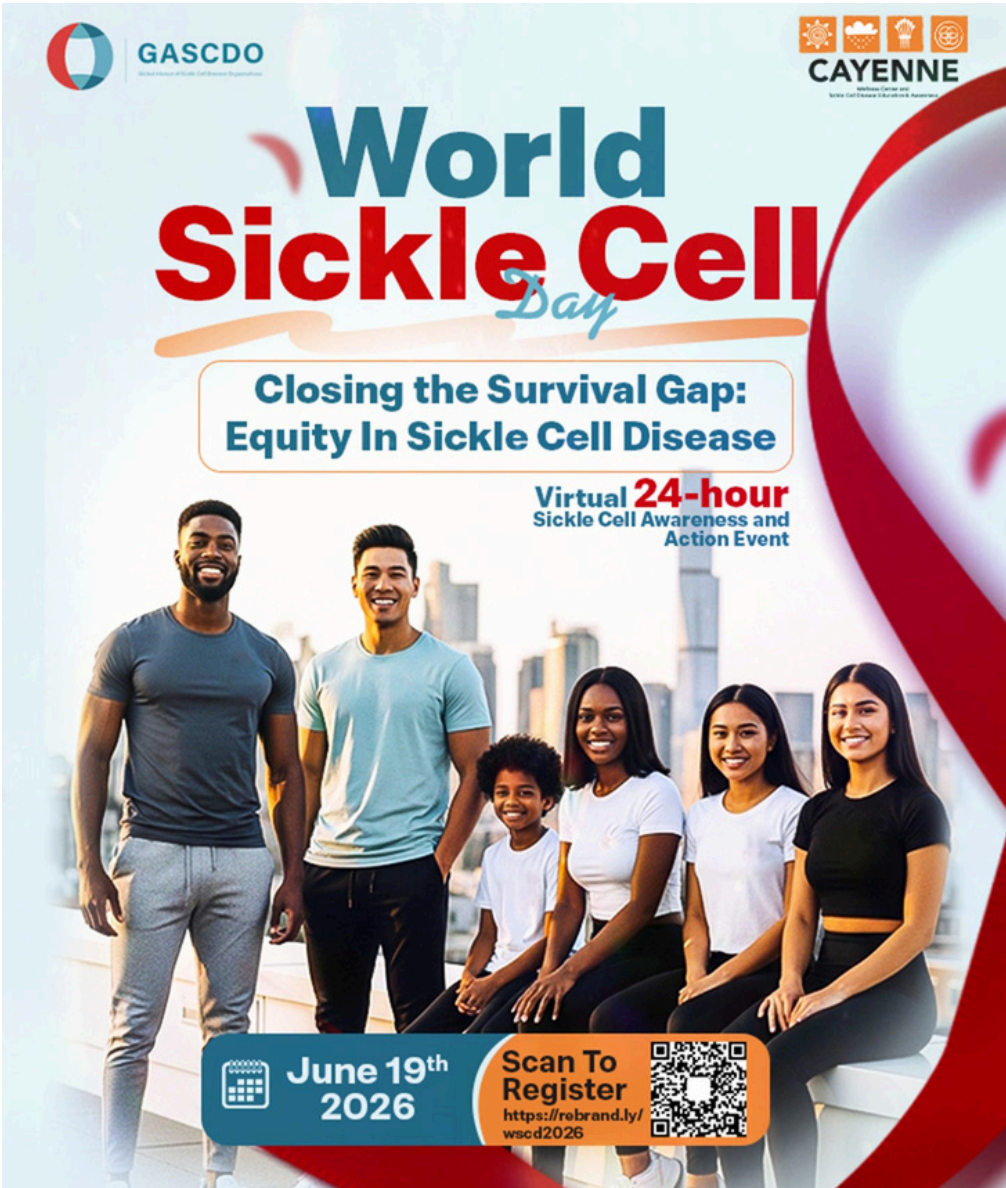
TASCA MONTHLY

WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY: 24 HOUR VIRTUAL EVENT

The Global Alliance of Sickle Cell Disease Organisations (GASDCO) is hosting their annual World Sickle Cell Day 24 Hour virtual event once again.

This year's theme: **'Closing the Survival Gap: Equity in Sickle Cell Disease'**.

For 24 hours, you'll have the opportunity to hear from patients, caregivers, advocates and healthcare professionals from around the world.



The poster features the GASDCO logo in the top left and the Cayenne logo in the top right. The main title 'World Sickle Cell Day' is prominently displayed in blue and red. Below it, the theme 'Closing the Survival Gap: Equity In Sickle Cell Disease' is enclosed in a rounded rectangle. Further down, it states 'Virtual 24-hour Sickle Cell Awareness and Action Event'. The central image shows a diverse group of six people (two men, two women, and a child) smiling on a rooftop. At the bottom, there is a registration banner with a calendar icon, the date 'June 19th 2026', the text 'Scan To Register', the URL 'https://rebrand.ly/wscd2026', and a QR code.

Be part of the movement. Your voice matters. It always has. Click [here](https://rebrand.ly/wscd2026) to register.

CALENDAR

14TH JUNE

WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

19TH JUNE

WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY

CONNECT WITH US!

FIND TASCA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@tascaust



Vote for us to get a Grant

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 info@tasca.org.au