



Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Australia

Unifying Support and Genetics



CONTENTS

- From our Chair - Pg. 2
- World Sickle Cell Day 2026 - Pg. 3
- Glen Eira City Council: Volunteer Recognition - Pg. 5
- July Trivia Night - Pg. 5
- TASCA Small Grant Recipient Story: Lucas - Pg. 6
- TASCA Work Experience Program - Pg. 7
- Deakin Nursing and Midwifery Society (DNMS) - Pg. 9
- TIF Updates - Pg. 9

Connect with TASCA: Latest News and Updates

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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

Members of TASCA's Committee were proud to participate in Wear Red for Sickle Cell, joining hundreds of people around the world as we acknowledge patients, families and caregivers on World Sickle Cell Day.

TASCA also partnered with the Australian Sickle Cell Advocacy group to host a morning tea at RCH on June 19.

In another busy month, the efforts of our committee members were recognised at Glen Eira's Volunteer Recognition awards. It is a humbling and rewarding experience to be able to work with our community and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members for their commitment and support.

In a new initiative for TASCA, this week we have welcomed 2 Year 11 students from Star of the Sea College in Brighton. The students, Lara and Georgia, were given the opportunity to learn more about genetic blood conditions, speak with patients at both MIU & RCH and also to appreciate the idea of volunteering work.

Our 50th anniversary book is now available for purchase through our website. It can be purchased as a hard copy or in a downloadable format. Please visit our [website](#) for these options.

I hope everyone continues to stay warm, healthy and engaged with all TASCA activities, community forums and resources on our website.



TASCA MONTHLY

WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY 2026

Every year, on **June 19**, Sickle Cell warriors from across the globe come together to celebrate **World Sickle Cell Day**. This is a day for the Sickle Cell community to celebrate with one another, sharing their stories and lived experiences with the wider community to help raise awareness and increase the public's knowledge and understanding of Sickle Cell Disease.

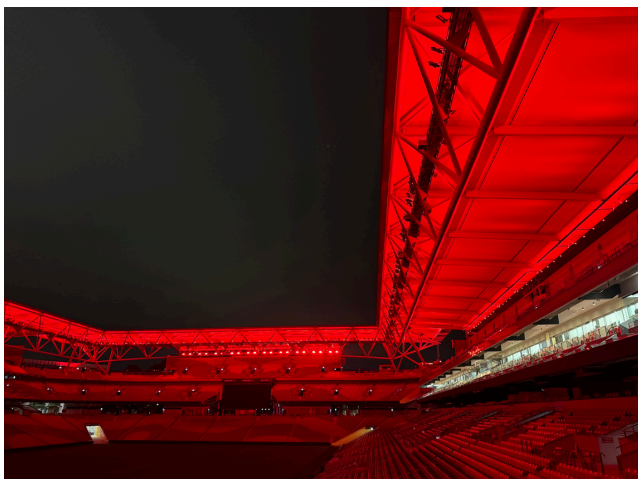
To help celebrate this international awareness day, TASCA illuminated landmarks across Australia in red (or blue) to show our support for the Sickle Cell community.



Bell Tower, Perth



Tasman Bridge, TAS



Suncorp Stadium, QLD

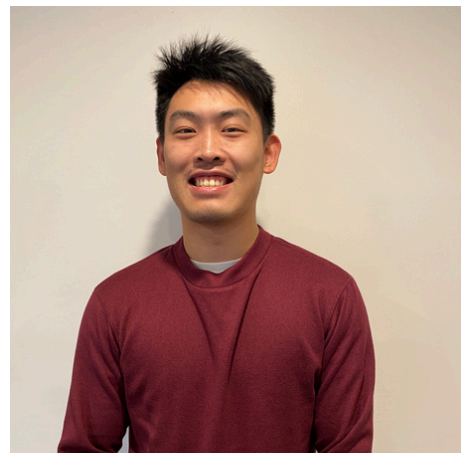
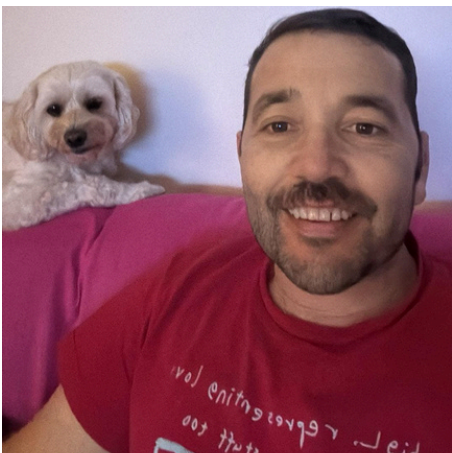


Glen Eira Town Hall, VIC

TASCA MONTHLY**WORLD SICKLE CELL DAY 2026**

We are proud to have partnered with [Australian Sickle Cell Advocacy](#) (ASCA) to host a special World Sickle Cell Day Morning Tea at the Royal Children's Hospital on June 19. This event was a lovely opportunity to bring together patients, their families and caregivers, health professionals, and advocates to share experiences and discuss key topics.

A warm thank you to those who participated in TASCA's '**Wear Red for Sickle Cell**' initiative and shared your lovely photos in red!



TASCA MONTHLY

GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL: VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Congratulations to TASCA's committee members who were recognised at Glen Eira City Council's Volunteer Recognition ceremony this month. Dr John Malios, Pat Bollard, Stani Goma, Jo Mucciacciaro and Peter Verveniots were recognised for their commitment and service to the community through TASCA.

We would like to congratulate Dr John Malios for dedicating 50 years of voluntary service to TASCA. As one of TASCA's founding members, Dr Malios has dedicated decades to supporting our Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell community and helping shape the organisation into what it is today.



Pictured: Dr John Malios and GECC Mayor Cr Simone Zmood



We would also like to congratulate Pat Bollard, Peter Verveniots, and Joanne Mucciacciaro for dedicating 2,000 hours of voluntary service, and Stani Goma for 500 hours of voluntary service to TASCA.

JULY TRIVIA NIGHT

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 is still one more date 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 15th July

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

A promotional graphic for Trivia Night. It features a dark blue background with a red banner at the top left that says "Join us for". The main text "Trivia Night" is in large, white, serif font. Below it, a sign reads "GENERAL PUBLIC TRIVIA Every Wed @ 6:30pm". To the right, there are colorful question marks. At the bottom left, there are signs for "Drink \$pecials" and "Food \$pecials". On the bottom right, a red box contains the location information: "Where: General Public Dingley 366 Boundary Rd, Dingley Village VIC 3172". A small image of a man holding a beer is also present.

TASCA MONTHLY

TASCA SMALL GRANT RECIPIENT STORY: LUCAS

TASCA is proud to celebrate the achievements of Lucas Luong from QLD, a recipient of a TASCA Small Grant and his school ensemble, Runcorn Senior Strings.

Last year, Lucas received a TASCA Small Grant, which helped his family purchase a cello. The grant provided Lucas with the opportunity to fully participate in his school's strings program and continue developing his passion for music.

Lucas lives with Thalassaemia, and music has become an important part of his wellbeing. As his mother Ella explains, "For Lucas, practicing the cello provides a structured and calming activity that aids focus and builds confidence. It also offers an important tool for reducing anxiety during long treatment sessions and managing the emotional challenges associated with chronic illness."

We are delighted to share that Lucas and the Runcorn Senior Strings recently received a

Platinum grading at Creative Generation's Instrumental Fanfare. This is an outstanding achievement in itself, and the ensemble has also been recognised as a Metropolitan South Regional Finalist, selected from hundreds of ensembles that performed in the Fanfare heats. The group proudly performed in the Regional Final on 23 June.

Lucas' story highlights the impact that the TASCA Small Grants Program can have on young people living with Thalassaemia. By helping families access opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach, these grants support not only participation and achievement but also confidence, wellbeing, and connection.

Congratulations to Lucas and the entire Runcorn Senior Strings team on this wonderful accomplishment. We are honoured to have played a small part in Lucas' musical journey and look forward to seeing what he achieves next.



Pictured: Lucas Luong at Creative Generation's Instrumental Fanfare, awarded with a 'platinum' grade.

TASCA MONTHLY

TASCA WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

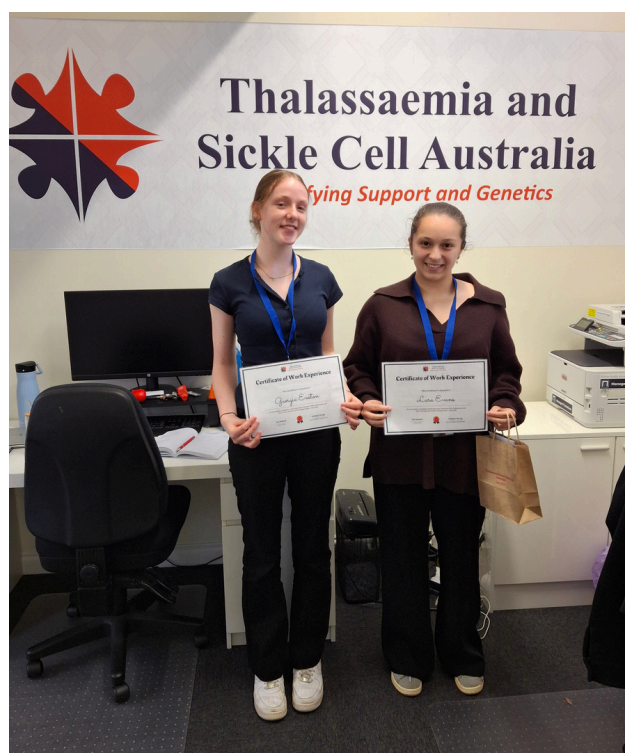
TASCA was proud to host our first-ever high school work experience program during the Term 2 school holidays. Georgia and Lara from Star of the Sea College spent one week with the TASCA staff, learning about Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease and the work that TASCA does for our community.

GEORGIA

During the school holidays, I had the exciting opportunity to complete work experience with TASCA. Throughout the week, I was involved in social media and event planning to help raise awareness of thalassaemia and sickle cell disease.

We also visited Monash Medical Centre and The Royal Children's Hospital, where we met with patients and healthcare professionals, giving us a greater understanding of these conditions and the impact they have on individuals and families. One of the highlights of the week was meeting Anna, a Nurse Consultant at The Royal Children's Hospital, who shared valuable insights into blood transfusions, patient care, and the important role nurses play in supporting patients.

In addition, we participated in a radio interview with Colin on Southern FM 88.3, where we spoke about our work experience, the activities we had been involved in, and the importance of raising awareness of thalassaemia and sickle cell disease. Overall, it was a rewarding experience that strengthened my interest in health promotion and patient care.



TASCA MONTHLY

LARA

Hello, my name is Lara. These school holidays my friend, Georgia, and I took the opportunity of doing work experience with TASCA. We have learned valuable information about thalassaemia and sickle cell disease that we were previously unaware of.

It is an inspiring organisation to truly grasp the understanding of their process to promote these genetic conditions and advocate for their patients. There were many tasks we were given to provide depth in our knowledge of the skills it takes to run a not-for-profit organisation such as TASCA. Our roles included, researching and presenting the information we discovered about thalassaemia and sickle cell, social media promotion, event planning, brainstorming youth targeted activities and visiting hospitals, as well as medical centres to converse with patients and nurses.

As part of our experience, we had the incredible opportunity to ask genetic counselling students about their course and insights to their future careers, as well as health care professionals, such as nurses, to discover the treatments they give patients and any potential complications.



TASCA MONTHLY

DEAKIN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SOCIETY (DNMS)

The **Deakin Nursing and Midwifery Society (DNMS)** is a student-led organisation dedicated to supporting and empowering nursing and midwifery students throughout their university journey.

Our mission is to create opportunities for students to develop both professionally and personally through a diverse range of educational workshops, clinical skills sessions, guest speaker events, networking opportunities, social gatherings, and wellbeing initiatives. By fostering a strong sense of community, DNMS helps students build lasting connections while preparing them for successful careers in healthcare.

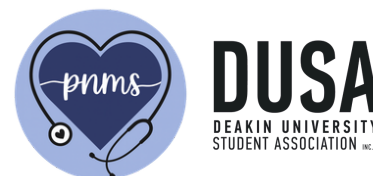
As part of our commitment to broadening students' understanding of contemporary healthcare, DNMS actively collaborates with healthcare organisations and advocates to deliver educational experiences that extend beyond the classroom.

We are proud to partner with Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Australia (TASCA) to increase awareness of Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease among future nurses and midwives. Through this collaboration, we aim to enhance students' understanding of these conditions, promote culturally safe and person-centred care, and encourage greater advocacy for individuals, families, and communities affected by these disorders.

At DNMS, we believe that education is key to improving patient outcomes. Working alongside TASCA enables us to expose students to important health topics beyond the classroom, helping to prepare the next

generation of healthcare professionals to provide informed, compassionate, and equitable care for diverse communities.

We are excited to continue growing our partnership with TASCA throughout the remainder of 2026 and into 2027, working together to deliver meaningful educational opportunities and raise awareness of important health issues for the next generation of healthcare professionals.



TIF UPDATES

TIF has launched a new webinar series, 'Bridging the Communication Gap in Haemoglobinopathy Care'. This quarterly series is "designed to strengthen dialogue between patients, families, and healthcare providers across the global haemoglobinopathy community".

There are still two more webinars for the year, held in September and November. Stay tuned for more details closer to the dates. You can view the recordings via TIFLIX [here](#).

Additionally, the [Rare Anaemias International Network \(RAIN\)](#), powered by TIF, has recently published a new report, featuring research highlights presented at the 2026 Congress of the [European Hematology Association \(EHA\)](#). You can read the report [here](#).

CAN YOU HELP TASCA'S FUNDRAISING AUCTION



Thalassaemia and
Sickle Cell Australia

Unifying Support with Genetics

Your donation helps

We are seeking donations for our upcoming
FATHER'S DAY ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

If you or your business can donate a prize, gift voucher, product, service, experience, or merchandise item, we want to hear from you!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:



Gift Vouchers



Experiences



Memorabilia



Services



Products



Big Raffle Prizes



Support those living with a genetic haemoglobin condition



TASCA implement activities and events for the Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell community



Every donation, big or small, makes a difference!

THANK YOU

FOR SUPPORTING
THALASSAEMIA AND
SICKLE CELL
AUSTRALIA



Please contact TASCA at info@tasca.org.au or (03) 7015 5637 to donate or learn more.

Contact Us

(03) 7015 5637 | <https://www.tasca.org.au/> | info@tasca.org.au

CALENDAR

15TH JULY

TRIVIA NIGHT @GENERAL PUBLIC

25TH JULY

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

28TH JULY

WORLD HEPATITIS DAY

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.



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Sickle Cell Australia**

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