



Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Australia

Unifying Support and Genetics



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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

Happy Halloween month & happy spring to all!

It has been another big month for us at TASCA, with ongoing stakeholder engagement, member interactions, tertiary student placements and preparation for our AGM.

Recently I attended a meeting with The Honourable Mark Butler MP, Minister for Disability and the National Disability Insurance Scheme, where he updated participants on the progress of HTA reform recommendations which were released 2 years ago. In collaboration with other patient advocacy groups, TASCA has co-signed a letter requesting clear, concrete information from decision-makers on the impact of delayed access to medicines and therapies. This is still a work in progress!

In line with this, our support of the High Cost Gene Therapy project facilitated by The University of Sydney is continuing to explore issues such as the ethical and legal issues associated with high upfront-cost gene therapies, as well as patient, consumer and societal preferences. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the surveys and questionnaires associated with this study.

Our collaboration with Melbourne University continues with the placement of Masters of Genetic Counselling students Lauren and Conlon, who are working on some exciting projects. More information on these will be available with our next newsletter.

We have also, in the last month, had some staffing changes. Our HPO Nathan has moved on to other opportunities, so our office is staffed by Steph, with support from the Executive Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Nathan well in all future endeavours. I would also like to thank Steph for stepping up to ensure things continue to run smoothly.

Our upcoming AGM will be on October 26th and I invite all members to attend and find out more about the great achievements we've made this year. Information will be available soon.

TASCA MONTHLY

TASCA BIOLOGY PRESENTATIONS

That's a wrap for school presentations this year!

Our Health Promotions Officer, Nathan, has spent the last month visiting secondary schools across the state to deliver our free genetics school presentation to Year 10 and 11 Biology students.

Promoting education about Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell is key to raising awareness in the wider community. TASCA's genetics presentation includes information about inheritance patterns of Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Anaemia, current medical research and management options, the patient experience, and the importance of blood donations from community members.

Thank you to all the schools Nathan presented to for your warm welcome and keen interest in TASCA and our work.



Patterson River Secondary College



Kolbe Christian College



St Johns College



Camberwell Girls Grammar

TASCA MONTHLY

FATHER'S DAY SILENT AUCTION

Thank you to everyone who participated in TASCA's Father's Day Online Silent Auction last month!

Congratulations to everyone who snagged a great prize, whether that was to treat yourself or gift to a special someone in your life for Father's Day.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to every business that donated auction items – we are truly grateful for your support.

FREE NDIS ACCESS AND FUNDING TRANSITION GUIDE



**THERAPY
NEAR ME**

Therapy Near Me has developed a free public information guide to help NDIS participants,

families and supporters understand changes to NDIS access and funding. The guide explains key changes, transition considerations, review and advocacy pathways, and practical steps participants can take if their eligibility or funding may be affected.

The resource is provided purely for public information and does not promote Therapy Near Me's clinical services.

The continuously updated guide is available [here](#).

TIF WEBINAR SERIES: BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP IN HAEMOGLOBINOPATHY CARE

The third webinar in TIF's quarterly webinar series is approaching fast.

“Listening with Empathy: Communication Skills for Clinicians & Patients/Parents” is the third instalment in TIF's **Bridging the Communication Gap in Haemoglobinopathy Care** webinar series.

Effective communication is central to high-quality, patient-centred care. For people living with Thalassaemia or Sickle Cell Disease—and for their parents, families, and caregivers—feeling listened to and understood can help build trust, encourage open dialogue, and support greater participation in decisions about treatment and care.

- **Date:** Friday, 2nd October 2026
- **Time:** 7:00 – 8:30 PM EEST | 2:00 – 3:30 AM AEST
- **Where:** Zoom

Participation is open to all. Register [here](#).

TIF THALASSAEMIA INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION

TIF WEBINAR SERIES 2026
EPISODE 3

BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP[®]
IN HAEMOGLOBINOPATHY CARE

“Listening with Empathy”
Communication Skills for Clinicians & Patients/Parents

MODERATOR
Mr. Frank Somma

DATE: Friday, 2 October 2026

TIME: 19:00 EEST (Cyprus)
21:30 IST (India)
12:00 EDT (New York)

DURATION: 90 minutes

PLATFORM: Zoom

REGISTER HERE!
https://us02web.zoom.us/join/wn_M3jY1HoUSKaf5a20M2b0-g

SPONSORS
Bristol Myers Squibb | agios

This webinar is organised by Thalassaemia International Federation

TASCA MONTHLY - Halloween Kids Page

HALLOWEEN TEA LIGHT CANDLE JARS

Create these spooky tea light jars from [Spotlight!](#)

Materials:

- Tissue paper, colours of your choice
- Mod Podge Sealer
- Sponge Brush
- Mason Jars
- Acrylic Paint, black
- Paint Brush
- Googly Eyes
- Craft Card, black
- Craft Glue
- Scissors
- Tea Lights

Instructions:

Step 1. Cut the tissue paper into strips of 3-4cm, enough to cover the jar. Spread Mod Podge onto the side of the jar with the sponge brush, smooth a strip of tissue paper onto it from top to bottom, and go over it again with the brush to ensure a smooth finish. Overlap a second piece of tissue paper and repeat. Continue in this way until the jar is completely covered, cut away any excess paper, and leave to dry.

Step 2. Paint the top of the jar with the black paint, giving it 2 coats if necessary. Glue on eyes, either cut out of card or use googly eyes, and a crazy nose or mouth as desired. Put a tea light into the candle.



SPOOKY FRUIT KEBABS



Looking for a fresh Halloween treat? Try these [spooky fruit kebabs!](#)

The best part about this recipe is that you can use any fruit you have on hand.

Ingredients:

- ½ Rockmelon, seeded
- ½ Honeydew, seeded
- 4 Kiwifruits, peeled
- 250g Strawberries
- 12 large Marshmallows
- Writing Icing, to decorate
- Bamboo skewers

Method:

Step 1. Use a melon baller to scoop balls from rockmelon and honeydew melon. Use a small round cutter to cut discs from kiwifruit. Use a small, sharp knife to cut out mouths from some of the strawberries.

Note: If you don't own a melon baller, you can simply cut chunks from the rockmelon and honeydew.

Step 2. Thread the rockmelon, honeydew melon, kiwifruit, marshmallows and strawberries onto bamboo skewers. Decorate with writing icing.



CALENDAR

29TH SEPTEMBER

WORLD HEART DAY

10TH OCTOBER

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

26TH OCTOBER

TASCA AGM

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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