

Become an anti-D plasma donor

You have a red blood cell antibody called anti-D — and that makes you pretty special. Anti-D is a protein in your blood that can be used to produce a treatment that helps save the lives of thousands of babies every year. If you're eligible to donate blood, we invite you to become a plasma donor and help us make these life-saving anti-D injections.

What is anti-D and how does it work?

Anti-D is a special antibody injection that is used to prevent a potentially serious condition called haemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN).

When a mother with Rh (D) negative blood is pregnant with a baby who has Rh (D) positive blood, there's a risk her immune system will create antibodies that can attack the red blood cells of her next baby. These babies can suffer serious complications including, in some cases, brain damage or even death.

Anti-D injections can prevent the formation of these antibodies in the mother, and thus prevent HDFN.

Around 17 per cent of Australian women who become pregnant need anti-D injections to keep their babies healthy. These injections can only be made from special plasma like yours.

How can you help?

All of Australia's anti-D plasma comes from a small group of around 200 donors. Very few people, and even fewer donors, have anti-D, so we rely on their regular donations for this important product.

Currently, the number of anti-D blood donors in Australia is only just sufficient to meet the needs of our growing population. To continue to protect the babies of Rh (D) negative women, we'd like you to become part of this very special and life-saving program.

What to expect

Plasma donation is simple. While you're resting in a comfortable chair, a special machine draws blood from your arm. The machine separates the blood out to collect the plasma. After that, we return the rest of your blood to you through the same needle.

This process is repeated until enough plasma has been collected, which usually takes between 45 minutes to an hour, so bring a book or some headphones to help make the time fly. Your body quickly replenishes plasma, and you'll be able to donate as often as every two weeks.

Want to find out more?

Call **13 14 95** to learn more about helping save the lives of babies.

