

A day in the life of a TP in Australia

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The background features a layered design. At the top is a dark blue sky with a yellow sun. Below it is a yellow band with white teardrop shapes. The middle section is a large red area with a white geometric pattern of circles and lines. At the bottom is a dark red band with white teardrop shapes containing yellow figures.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this land and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

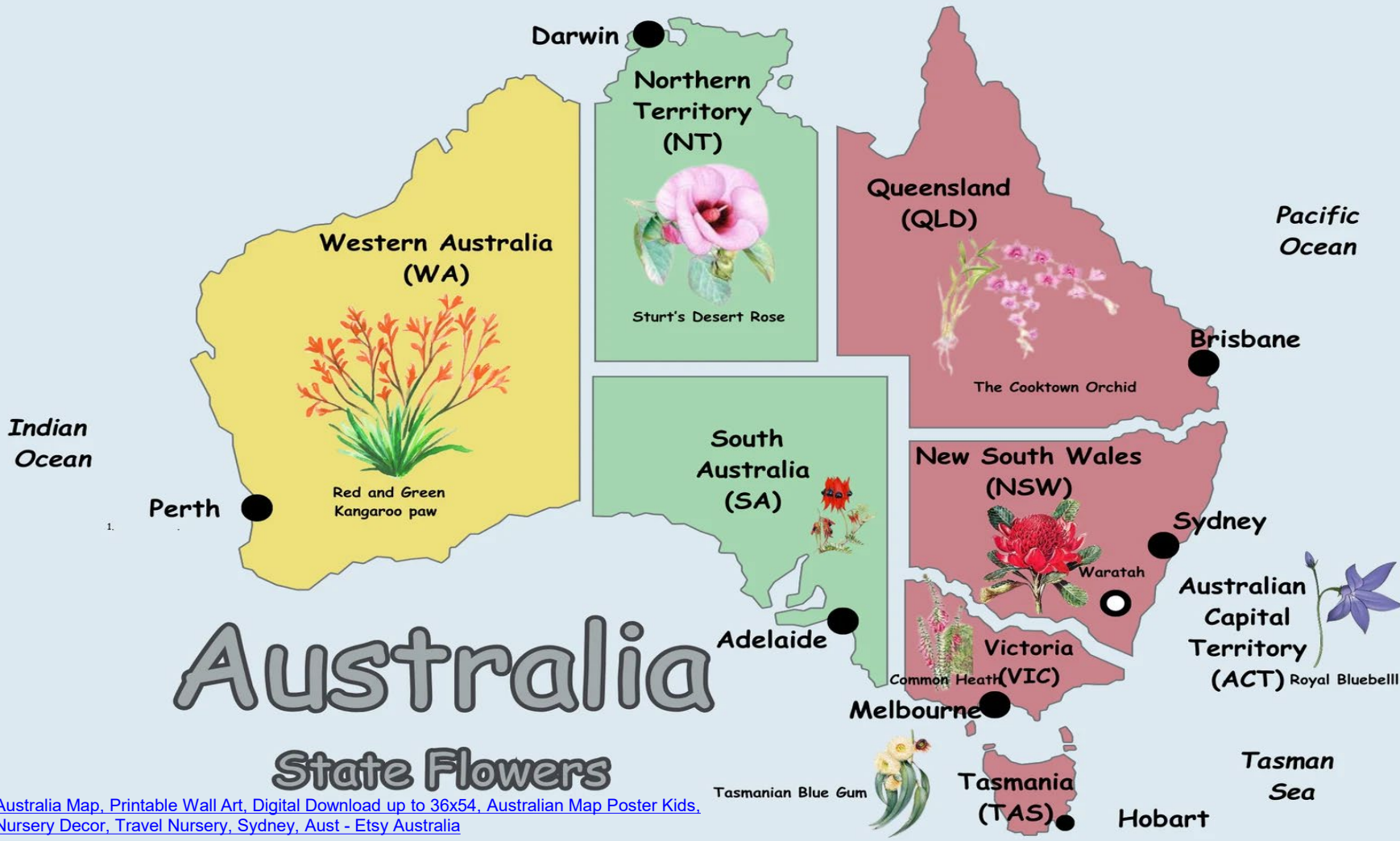
Farcus

by David Waisglass
Gordon Coulthart



"What conflict of interest?!
I work here in my spare time."

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Australia

State Flowers

[Australia Map, Printable Wall Art, Digital Download up to 36x54, Australian Map Poster Kids, Nursery Decor, Travel Nursery, Sydney, Aust - Etsy Australia](#)

Australian blood budget

>\$1.5 Billion (AUD) spent on blood and blood products in 2022-23

\$685.8M - fresh blood components

\$880.4M - plasma-derived/recombinant

Cost shared basis between Commonwealth (63%) and state and territories (37%) collectively



[Australian One Hundred Dollar Notes Bundles Stock Image - Image of studio, notes: 30865919 \(dreamstime.com\)](#)



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National influences - patient blood management guidelines

Patient blood management guideline for adults with critical bleeding

6 evidence-based PBM Guidelines

Patient Blood Management Guidelines: Module 2

Perioperative

All are under review

Patient Blood Management Guidelines: Module 3

Medical

Support clinical decision making

Patient Blood Management Guidelines: Module 4

Critical Care

Reflect a systematic review of the scientific literature

Patient Blood Management Guidelines: Module 5

Obstetrics and Maternity

Developed with clinical expert consensus

Patient Blood Management Guidelines: Module 6

Neonatal and Paediatrics

Recognised different patient needs



National influences - national safety and quality health service standards



Criteria

Clinical governance and quality improvement to support blood management

Organisation-wide governance and quality improvement systems are used to ensure safe and high-quality care of patients' own blood, and to ensure that blood product requirements are met.

Prescribing and clinical use of blood and blood products

The clinical use of blood and blood products is appropriate, and strategies are used to reduce the risks associated with transfusion.

Managing the availability and safety of blood and blood products

Strategies are used to effectively manage the availability and safety of blood and blood products.

National influences – guidelines and standards

- Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion (ANZSBT) guidelines
- Australian Standards AS3864.2- 2012 Medical refrigeration
- National intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) criteria
- NBA strategies & frameworks



The beginning....

To enhance the safety and appropriateness of hospital transfusion practice



Vic/Tas Blood Matters
Collaborative 2003-04



NZBS transfusion
nurse specialists
2006

BloodSafe launch 2002



What is a transfusion practitioner (TP)?

In Australia: Nurse or scientist

- Transfusion/blood management nurse
- Transfusion trainer
- Transfusion safety officer/quality officer
- Transfusion/blood management clinical nurse consultant
- PBM coordinator



TP role in Australia

Focus:

- Clinical practice align with state, national and international guidelines and standards

Activities include:

- Audit
- Policy and procedure development
- Education
- Haemovigilance
- Change management
- Waste minimisation
- PBM activities such as management of iron deficiency



Transfusion nurse role at Lifeblood

Commenced December 2006

Promote safe and appropriate use of blood and blood products

Focus on IVIg and patient-specific (e.g. HLA-matched) platelets

Education and resource

Links with TN networks – state and national

2007 – Inaugural TN meeting



What the TP brings

Expertise

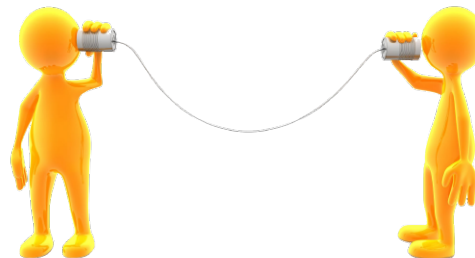
- local practice cultures
- local practice risks
- specific patient populations

Education

- specific to local workforce as well as across the system

Communication

- appropriate to hospital culture and professional groups
- conduit up, down and across system
- develop and maintain networks



Skills

Organised

Ability to coordinate and facilitate

Collect data, analyse data

Provide education and training

Confidence

Lots of energy

Persistent

Excellent communication skills



Graduate Certificate in Transfusion Practice



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TP Education

Transfusion courses | Lifeblood



Modules

Transfusion practitioner microcredentials

Foundation knowledge



Transfusion practitioner role

Module 1

Explore the day-to-day activities of the TP, become familiar with the common terminology used, and the interactions between the TP and internal health professionals and external health organisations

Get started →



Blood physiology

Module 2

Refresh your blood physiology knowledge, including the function of blood and the role of cellular and non-cellular components, which is an essential foundation for TP practice and education.

Get started →



Blood components

Module 3

Did you know that haemovigilance begins with the donor? Discover the steps Lifeblood takes to have one of the safest blood supplies in the world and learn the attributes of blood components and their clinical indications.

Get started →

The transfusion practitioner role in safe and appropriate transfusion practice



Decision to transfuse and consent

Module 4

This will take you through the best practice in patient blood management (PBM), with guidelines and resources to support appropriate transfusion and ensure informed consent, and what this means for the TP.

Coming soon



Blood administration

Module 5

Taking you step by step through the transfusion process so you can champion education, provide resources, and develop or update relevant policies and procedures, to support safe transfusion practice in your health organisation.

Coming soon



Transfusion adverse events

Module 6

Learn how to monitor, identify, treat, and follow up transfusion adverse events and get to know what's involved in reporting, investigating and analysing these adverse events if they happen in your clinical setting.

Coming soon

Environments where a TP could work



Large metropolitan trauma centres



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Environments where a TP could work



Large regional health service



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Environments where a TP could work



82kms [1 hour]

Large regional health service supporting a health network



202kms [2.5 hours]



164kms [2 hours]



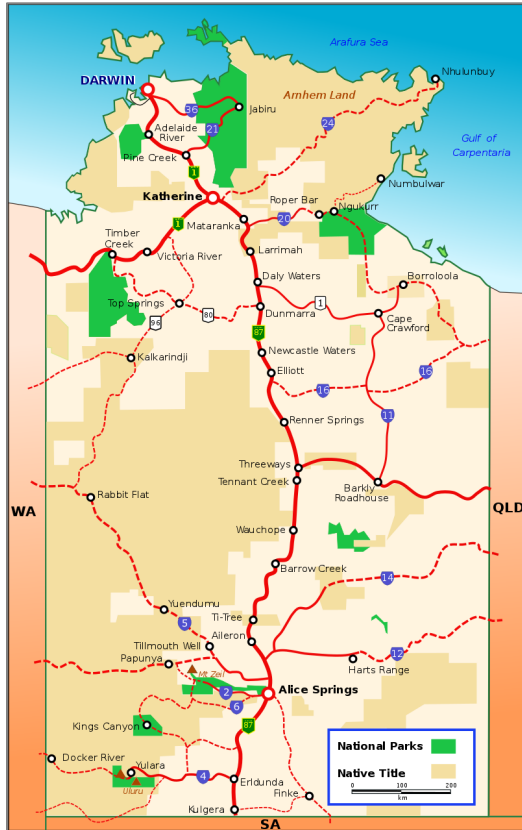
142kms [1.75 hours]

Environments where a TP could work

Rural



Tyranny of distance – Northern Territory



1,349,129 km²

One TP

Blood Champions



[Northern Territory - Wikipedia](#)



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Tyranny of distance – Western Australia



2,646,000 km²

TP's based in Perth and surround

Blood Management CNC for
Country health

Country BMC with representatives
from each region.

Environments where a TP could work



Blood/transfusion champions

Provide additional resource and support regarding practice change at clinical level

Often ward based but not exclusive

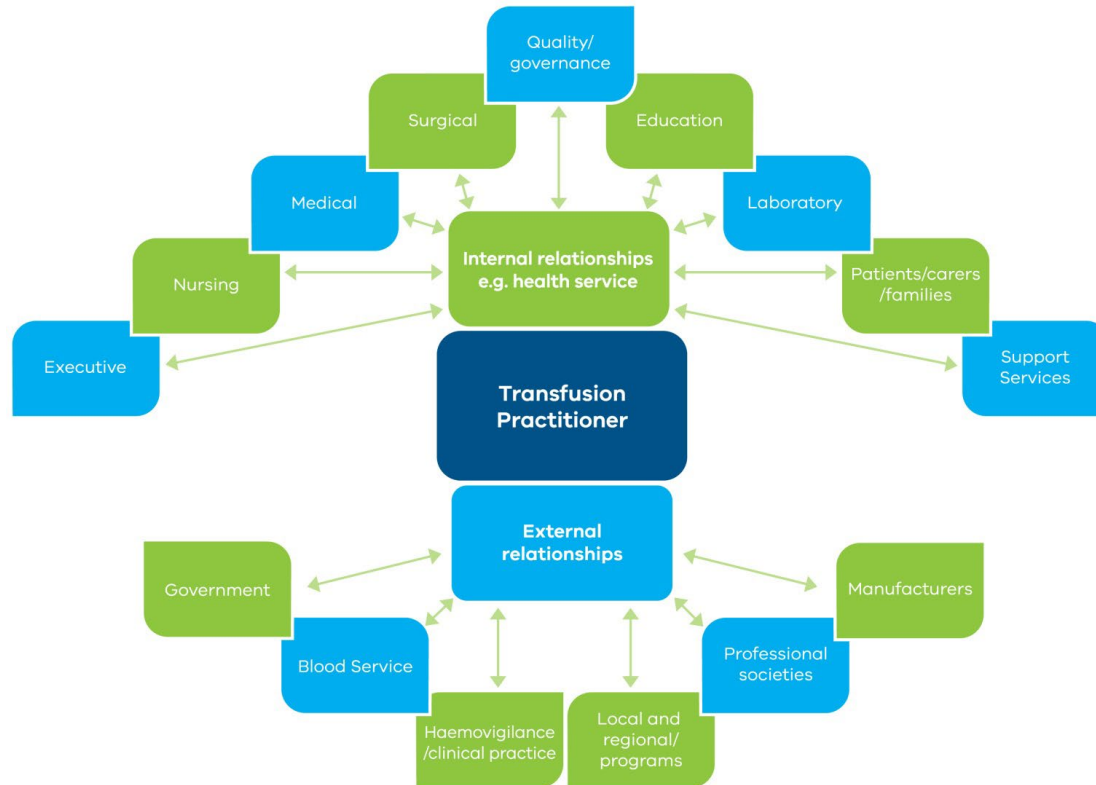
- wards, perioperative suite, intensive care, emergency department, rural health & nurse management

Provide two-way communication to the:

- TP
- Blood Management/Transfusion governance committee



Multidisciplinary relationships



Blood management/transfusion committee

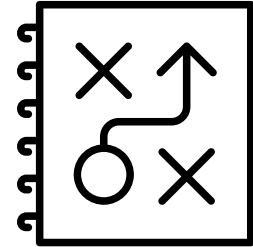
Active forum for communication

- Risk management
- Policy
- Best practice
- Education
- Reporting on activity
- Adverse events
- Monitoring utilisation/waste
- Issues



Common challenges

- Resources
 - Human
 - Financial
- Staffing
- Time
- Recognition and raising the profile of the TP within the organisation
- Change management, facilitating change and changing culture
- Blood Management Committee representation and enabling attendance
- Competing priorities for staff





Other challenges - regional/rural

- Access to specialist transfusion medicine/haematologist
- Part-time medical staff-not located on site
- BMC usually integrated into other meetings
- Distance to:
 - access blood/blood product
 - reach support
 - access education programs
- TP part-time or combined into another role
- Infrequent transfusions-reduced familiarity



Other challenges – private

Where a position is funded:

- challenge to keep funding
- most will be part-time
- responsible for multiple sites and/or state-wide responsibilities

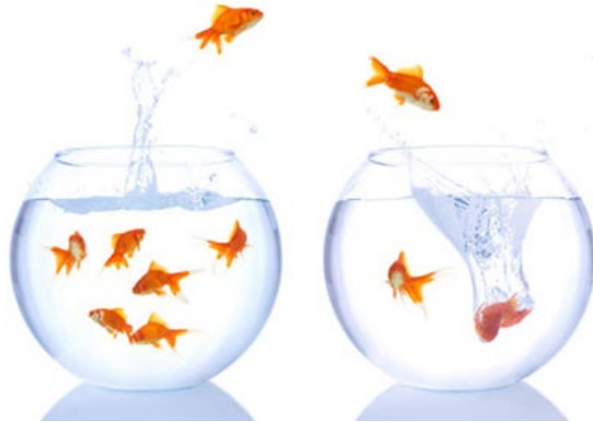
Engaging Visiting Medical Officers to meet requirements for the National Standards

Executive have less control to enforce practice change

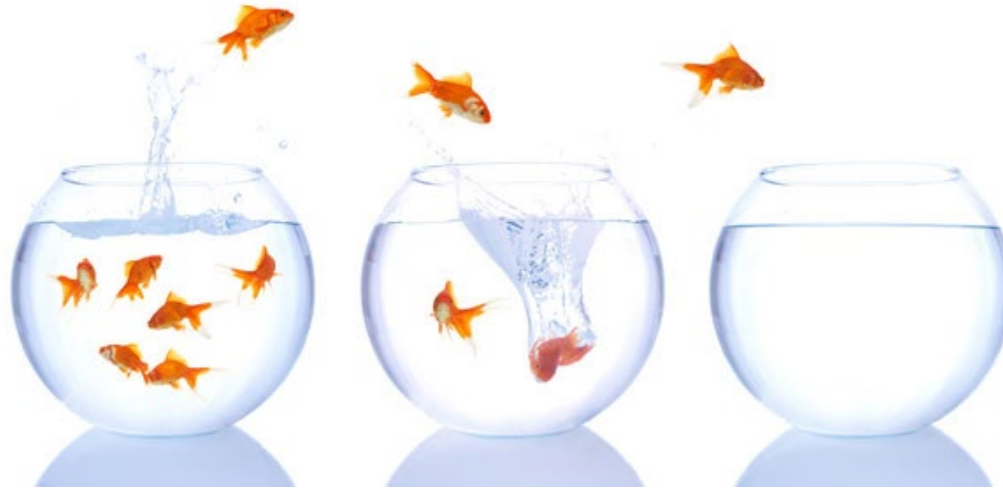
Driving change – the TP and the multidisciplinary team



Driving change – the TP and the multidisciplinary team



Driving change – the TP and the multidisciplinary team



Acknowledgements

Australian TPs who do such awesome work.

Australian governments fund the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood for the provision of blood, blood products and services to the Australian community.



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Questions?



[Echidna - Backyard Buddies](#)



[Cute but maybe not so cuddly zoo arrivals \(watoday.com.au\)](#)



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[Australian Road Signs | echidna \(corporateoz.com\)](#)



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