

Blood Matters report for blood management (or equivalent) committee

August 2025

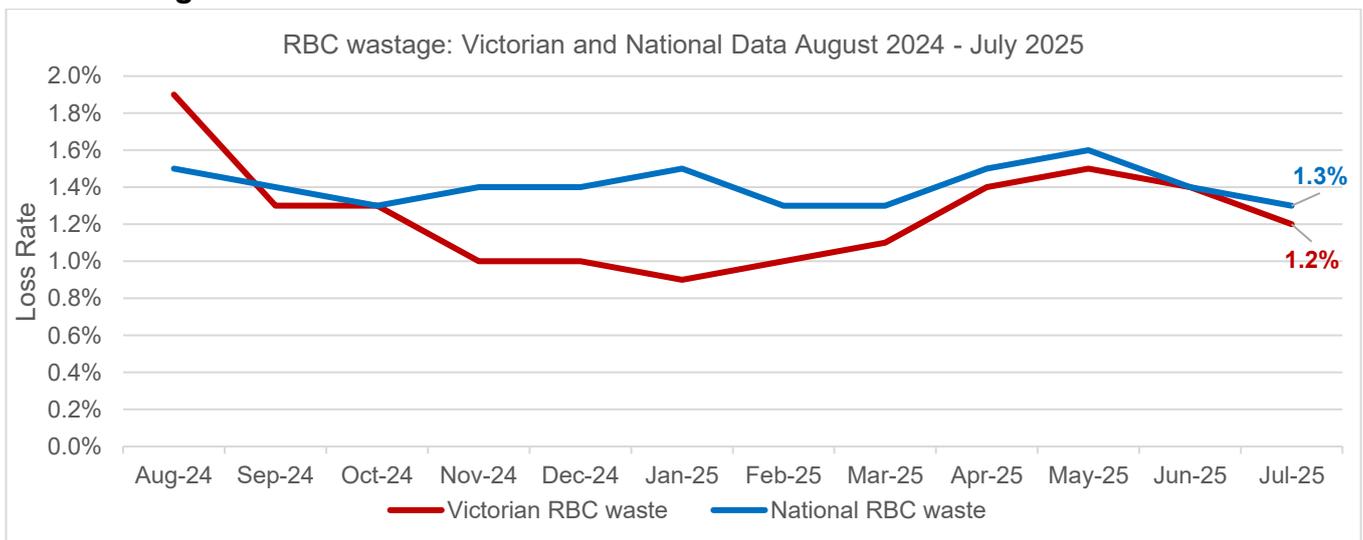
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The Blood Matters Program is a Victorian State Government program run in collaboration with the Australian Red Cross Lifeblood.

The program aims to support best practice in all areas related to blood management safety and governance.

Blood stewardship

RBC wastage



While Victorian RBC wastage rates remain consistently below national average, there has been a rise in RBC discards in recent months. Monitoring and investigation of wastage causes is an ongoing responsibility for each AHP; we thank you for your continued vigilance and dedication to blood stewardship.

2024-25 Festive campaign

The 2024-25 'STOP the waste' festive campaign was extremely successful once again. The diligence and awareness of all has been a major factor in the ongoing success of the 'STOP the waste' festive campaign. The average Victorian RBC wastage rate over this festive season was at an all-time low of 1.0%, a reduction from last year's average of 1.3%.

A poster titled 'STOP the waste' festive campaign: A decade strong and a new record in RBC conservation! celebrating the success of the festive campaign will be presented at Blood/ISBT 2025 in October.



Blood Matters

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Blood Matters' Inventory and wastage summary reports

Victorian issue rates for O RhD negative RBC and AB plasma are amongst the highest in Australia.

From September, all Victorian health services/transfusion laboratories will be sent an '*Inventory and wastage summary report*' which outlines the proportion of their inventory which is O RhD negative RBC and AB plasma along with all blood component issue, transfer and wastage rates. This report can be sent to individual laboratories or aggregate pathology groups and can be modified to include specific data. Please [email Rae French](mailto:rfrench@redcrossblood.org.au) <rfrench@redcrossblood.org.au> to discuss any additional requirements to be incorporated into a monthly report.

Auditing

The use of group O RhD negative RBC according to guidelines audit 2024

With demand for group O RhD negative red blood cells (RBC) significantly higher than the proportion of the population who are O RhD negative, the 2024 audit focused on the indications for the use of O RhD negative red blood cells. Data was compared to the Blood Matters 2017 O RhD negative RBC audit results (report published in 2018). This report and individual results will allow health services to assess compliance with recommended use and identify any gaps in practice or ongoing challenges.

The full report is available on the [Blood Matters Program webpage](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program>.

Audit 2025

The Serious Transfusion Incident Reporting (STIR) system received an increase in notifications for wrong blood in tube (WBIT) and incorrect blood component transfused (IBCT) in FY 2024. Fortunately, ABO incompatible transfusions, a form of IBCT with the potential for significant morbidity and mortality, are reported infrequently; however, STIR continues to receive reports of blood components administered to a patient other than the intended patient. This indicates there is improvement to be made in the areas of patient identification and the pretransfusion check.

The 2025 audit focused on: Positive patient identification and the pre-transfusion checking procedure which was conducted in two parts:

- Part 1: Policy survey – to determine if health services have a policy or policy statement that includes all the elements required for double independent checking of the patient and the blood component.
- Part 2: An observational audit of up to 20 transfusions to determine if the practice undertaken by clinical staff is consistent with the requirements for a double independent check of the patient and blood component.

All audit data has been submitted. Data analysis and report writing is nearing completion. It is anticipated that the report will be released in December 2025. The full report will be available on the [Blood Matters Program webpage](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/blood-matters-program>.

Serious transfusion incident reporting (STIR) system

We thank both public and private health services for continuing to report to the STIR system. These reports form the basis of our annual report, provide information for education and conferences, and contribute data for the National Blood Authority Haemovigilance reports.

The 2023-24 annual report will be available at [Serious Transfusion Incident Reporting system \(STIR\) | health.vic.gov.au](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/serious-transfusion-incident-reporting-system-stir) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/serious-transfusion-incident-reporting-system-stir> when released, along with previous annual reports.

STIR bulletins on recurring themes or serious issues seen in the investigations sent to STIR are periodically published. The latest STIR Bulletins, 12 and 13, were released in June 2025 and August 2025 respectively. STIR Bulletin 12 covers intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIg) reactions and STIR Bulletin 13 focusses on transfusion associated circulatory overload (TACO) recognition and management

STIR has updated forms and guidance to ensure that information provided assists reviewers in their validation of events and to provide data for the National Blood Authority Haemovigilance report, compliant with the Australian Haemovigilance Minimum Data Set.

For reporting criteria for STIR please go to the updated [STIR guide](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/blood-matters-serious-transfusion-incident-reporting-guide) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/blood-matters-serious-transfusion-incident-reporting-guide>>.

For any health service in Victoria, Tasmania, Northern Territory or Australian Capital Territory not currently reporting to STIR, please contact Blood Matters at: Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au if you wish to participate.

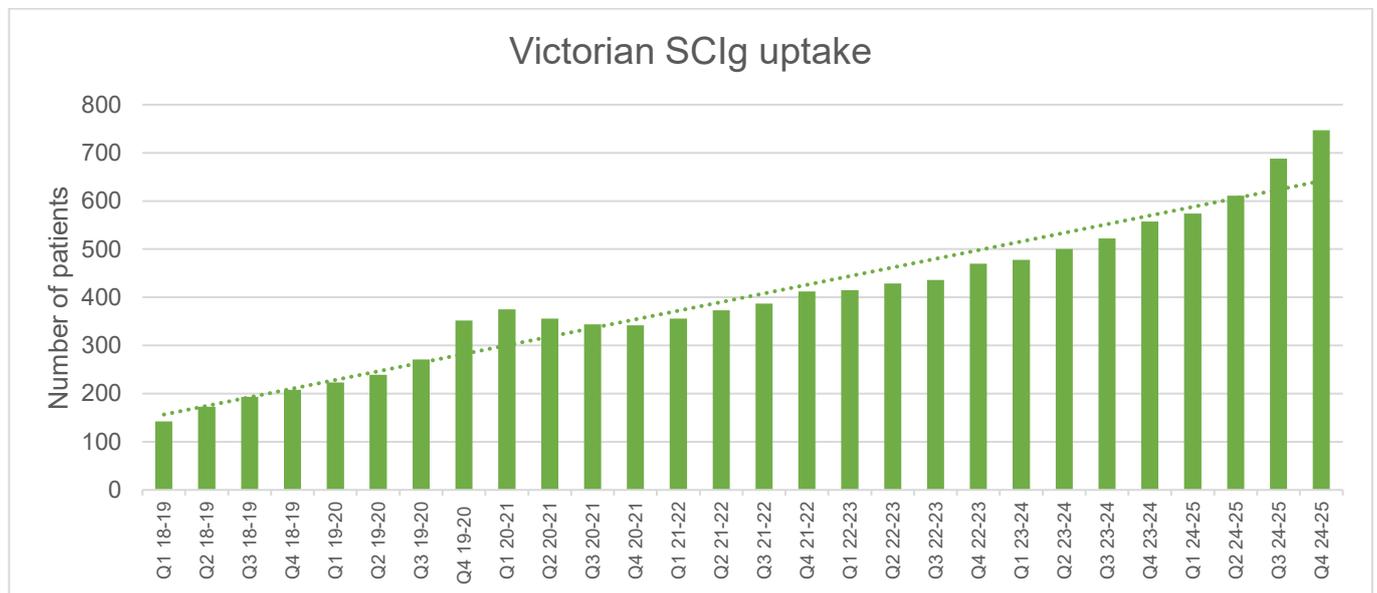
Subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg)

SCIg patient numbers

The number of patients receiving treatment with SCIg continues to increase.

Currently in Victoria (Q4 2024-2025) there are:

- 19 sites with active programs
- 747 Victorian patients receiving treatment with SCIg (21.6% of eligible patients)
- 3388 Victorian patients eligible for treatment with SCIg by medical diagnosis.



SCIg Forums

The final SCIg forum for 2025 is Tuesday 11 November 2025 and the focus will be on patient's accessing SCIg closer to home. Further information on the forum will be released closer to the date.

SCIg funding

Reporting of SCIg home administration is mandatory from 1 July 2025. Further information is available at [Health data standards and systems communications | health.vic.gov.au](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/data-reporting/health-data-standards-and-systems-communication) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/data-reporting/health-data-standards-and-systems-communication>>.

SCIg resources

SCIg implementation tools, resources, and health service SCIg contacts are available at: [Subcutaneous immunoglobulin \(SCIg\) access program | health.vic.gov.au](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/subcutaneous-immunoglobulin-scig-access-program) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/subcutaneous-immunoglobulin-scig-access-program>

If you would like further information on SCIg or assistance with commencing or expanding a SCIg program, please contact Anne Graham, Blood Matters Nurse Consultant (SCIg), via email at: angraham@redcrossblood.org.au

Education

Education continues to be a focus of our work, with previous events well received by participants. Most events are virtual with a small number being held in person.

Upcoming events for 2025

Education event	Date
Transfusion Practitioner Forum	October 13 (face-to-face)
	December 9 (virtual)
Scientist Forum	October 15 (face-to-face)
Blood study day – 6 hours of blood education in one day	November 18 (virtual)
SCIg Forum	November 11 (virtual)

Further information will be sent closer to the dates.

Please contact the Blood Matters team (Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au) if you would like us to participate in your education program.

Blood Matters forums

Blood Matters continues to support Transfusion Practitioners with the opportunity to get together and discuss current issues in second monthly virtual meetings (dates above). Content includes Blood Matters activity updates, changes in the blood sector, network questions and discussions, and education.

The annual in-person forum will be held at the Lifeblood Melbourne Processing Centre on 13 October 2025. Invitations have been sent, and further information will be forwarded to the Blood Matters Network closer to the date.

Blood Matters staff

Program Manager: Clare Hennessy email: clhennessy@redcrossblood.org.au

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To receive this document in another format, phone [03 9694 0102](tel:0396940102) using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email [Blood Matters](mailto:BloodMatters@redcrossblood.org.au) <Bloodmatters@redcrossblood.org.au>.

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Available at [Resources and education – blood transfusion](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/resources-and-education-blood-transfusion) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/patient-care/resources-and-education-blood-transfusion>>