



B L O O D

Who needs it?

Blood component therapy (also called blood transfusion) is used in many different medical situations. It can save lives. It can also improve the quality of life for people with blood disorders. But blood is a precious resource and must be used very carefully.

Where can you find out more?

To find out more about blood component therapy, ask your doctor or community health centre for the brochure **Blood: Who Needs It?**

The brochure answers some common questions about blood component therapy including:

- ◆ What is blood component therapy?
- ◆ Where do blood components come from?
- ◆ What are the benefits?
- ◆ What are the risks?
- ◆ Are there alternatives?
- ◆ Can I use my own blood?
- ◆ What is informed consent?

A booklet, *Blood Components: A Guide for Patients*, has also been developed to provide information for people who are likely to have blood component therapy, their families and carers.

Copies of the brochure and booklet are available from:

NHMRC Website at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au>,
or ASBT Website at: <http://www.asbt.org.au>

Print copies of all documents can be obtained by emailing:

HEALTH ADVISORY CTTEE NHMRC@nhmrc.gov.au
or by telephoning (02) 6289 9520
(24hr answering machine) or 1800 020 103.
Alternatively you can contact the ASBT by
telephoning (02) 9256 5456 or emailing to the
secretariat@asbt.org.au.

Copies of the NHMRC/ASBT *Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Use of Blood Components* are available from the AusInfo Government Bookshops, telephone 132 447.

Internet: www.ausinfo.gov.au
The guidelines are also available from
www.nhmrc.gov.au.

