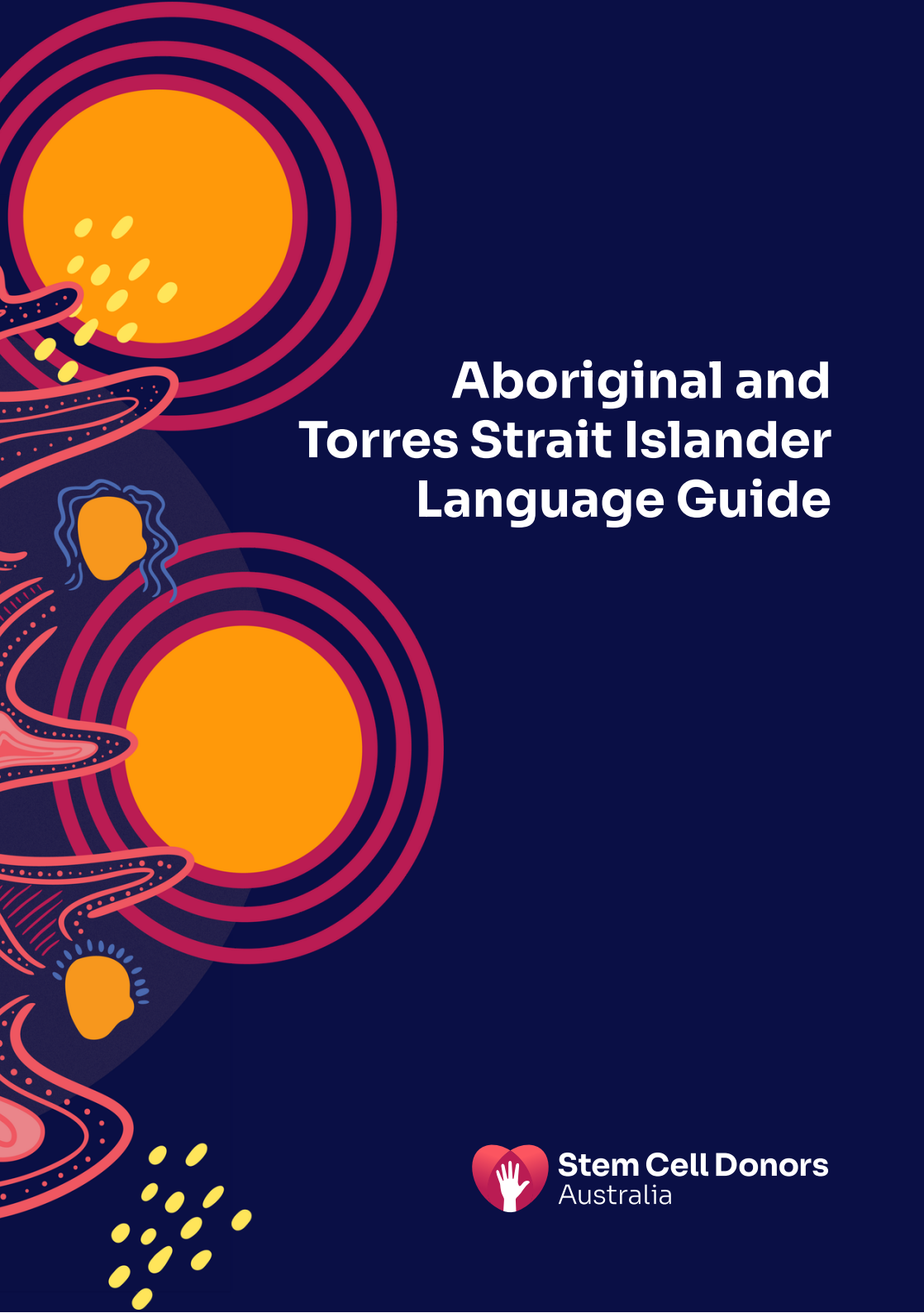


The background features a dark blue field with two large, concentric circles in magenta and orange. To the left, there are stylized, flowing lines in magenta and orange, some containing small yellow dots. At the bottom left, there is a cluster of yellow dots.

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Language Guide



**Stem Cell Donors**  
Australia

The background is a solid dark blue. In each of the four corners, there is a cluster of yellow oval shapes. These ovals are of varying sizes and are arranged in a way that suggests movement or a trail, with some overlapping. The clusters are located in the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners.

**Stem Cell Donors Australia acknowledges  
the Traditional Custodians of Country  
throughout Australia and their connection to  
Land, Sea, Waters and Communities.**

**We pay our respects to Elders past and  
present.**

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# 1. Introduction

## Purpose of this Guide

Stem cell donation is a very personal decision. It is important at Stem Cell Donors Australia that we support people with the right information to make informed decisions about their body and the potential for stem cell donation.

We understand that there are cultural considerations that may impact someone's decision to become a stem cell donor. As an organisation, we want to ensure respectful, strengths-based and accessible communication to all communities.

This guide is specifically focused on supporting people working with Stem Cell Donors Australia to engage respectfully with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples about stem cell donation.

## Our mission and focus

At Stem Cell Donors Australia, we are driven by one clear vision: a world where a stem cell match is identified for every person whose life depends on it.

We are proud to manage and grow Australia's blood stem cell donor registry, connecting potential donors with patients across the globe. Our mission is to ensure that no matter where a patient is or who they are, they have the best possible chance of finding a life-saving match.

We also know that for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples seeking a potentially lifesaving stem cell donor match, their chances of finding a suitable match are lower.

We understand that reducing barriers will encourage more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to become donors, which will support better health outcomes and increase the chances of a positive match.

## Who this Guide is for

This resource is intended as a guide for respectful engagement and communication with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities on stem cell donation.

Ongoing engagement, sharing of knowledge and understanding community concerns is important to improving the diversity of stem cell donors and saving lives.

## How this Guide was developed

This guide was developed in partnership with 33 Creative, an Aboriginal-owned communications agency with extensive experience working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and health organisations.

33 Creative led the development of the guide, drawing on their cultural and communications expertise, as well as a review of existing language guides from within the health sector. The guide was also informed by internal research and examples of how Stem Cell Donors Australia communicates about stem cell donation.

Drafts of the guide were reviewed and strengthened through feedback from NACCHO, as well as Aboriginal stem cell donors and transplant recipients who shared insights from lived experience.

We see this guide as an evolving resource. As our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities grow, we will continue to learn and refine our approach. Feedback is welcomed and encouraged to ensure the guide remains respectful, relevant and grounded in community experience.

### Note on terminology

With the intention of respect and inclusivity, we use the term "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples" consistently throughout this guide.

We understand that people choose many ways to identify and acknowledge their cultural identity, and that there is no single term suitable for all individuals. We acknowledge the many ways in which culture and identity are deeply personal and respect individuals' personal preferences.

## 2. Representing culture and improving representation

### Respecting cultural considerations

Decisions about stem cell donation are highly personal. At Stem Cell Donors Australia, we respect and support each person to make the right decision for them, based on clear, accessible information.

Cultural considerations are diverse. For many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, the ongoing impacts of colonisation have shaped experiences of health care and government systems, and in some cases affected trust in these systems. Dispossession from land, disruption of family and kinship, forced removal policies, and experiences of racism have contributed to intergenerational trauma and unequal social, cultural and economic conditions. These factors can influence access to services, health literacy, trust in institutions and feelings of cultural safety within mainstream health settings.

At the same time, connection to Country, culture, community and self-determination are recognised as strong protective factors for health and wellbeing. Understanding this broader context helps explain why language, transparency and respectful engagement are so important when discussing stem cell donation, and why building trust over time matters.

We are committed to working respectfully and with authenticity, to ensure people have the information they need to make informed decisions.

### Enhancing representation on Australia's stem cell donor registry

The best chance of a stem cell donor match is someone with the same ancestral background, ethnicity or genetic group. This means that when certain communities are underrepresented on the registry, patients from those communities face lower chances of finding a suitable match.

In 2025, the registry undertook an analysis to better understand how the current donor pool is meeting the needs of Australian patients. The analysis found that only 25% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Pasifika patients were able to find a matching donor in Australia, compared with 42% of patients with North-West European heritage. Increasing the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples on the registry is an important step toward improving equity in access to stem cell transplantation.

Greater representation increases the likelihood of suitable matches and supports better long-term health outcomes for people requiring life-saving treatment for blood cancers and blood disorders.

## Safety and support in the health system

We recognise that some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have experienced racism, discrimination or cultural unsafety within health care settings. These experiences can affect trust and willingness to engage.

People are encouraged to bring a support person to appointments if that feels helpful. Where available, people can also ask the hospital about support from an Aboriginal Liaison Officer or other culturally appropriate services.

Acknowledging these experiences and supporting people to feel safe and respected is an important part of informed choice.



# 3. Principles for respectful engagement and communication

Our approach to engagement is grounded in respect for the rights, choices and self-determination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. This aligns with nationally and internationally recognised frameworks, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. In practice, this means supporting informed choice, being transparent and accountable in how we communicate, and recognising that trust is built through respectful relationships over time.

The below principles guide the way in which we approach engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The aim is to ensure respectful information sharing and provide practical tips for people working in stem cell donor outreach.

## Community first language

To improve stem cell donor representation, we need to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits for community. Avoiding complex clinical or overly medical terms will help to break down barriers.

- Use every day, relatable language relevant to community that explains complex ideas in a simple and conversational way. It is important to provide context that builds individual and collective health literacy, for example, what stem cell transplants are, why they are important, how they are undertaken, and who can benefit.
- To make sure language is suitable, we can test language and be open to feedback. Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities will ensure that their voices are embedded.

## Respectful and culturally responsive

It is important that we build trust and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander values of culture, family and kinship, identity, and connection.

- Different communities might have language words or cultural interpretations for physical anatomy or ways in which health and wellbeing is maintained. Engaging with Elders and cultural authorities and leaders in community projects can determine how best to adapt content locally, to suit community needs and be responsive and respectful to cultural protocols and knowledges.

## Strengths-based language and tone

Stem cell transplants are about helping people to have the best health outcome possible when they need it. Deficit based language for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples often reinforces negative stereotypes and mindsets. Positioning content in strengths-based language can drive more positive engagement.

- Instead of highlighting disadvantage, speak about opportunity and benefits of more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as stem cell donors in supporting the health and wellbeing of other community members when they need it most. Emphasising the collective health and wellbeing benefits of having more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander donors builds on existing strength and connection.

## Connection and collaboration

We will achieve more by working together. This includes engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs), health workers and practitioners to build long-term relationships based on trust, understanding and shared learning.

- Working in partnership with community-controlled services, Elders, cultural leaders and local health professionals helps us better understand the cultural, practical and systemic barriers that can affect participation in stem cell donation. These may include experiences of racism in health settings, limited access to culturally safe services, concerns about data and consent, geographic distance, and past experiences that have impacted trust in institutions.
- By listening and working alongside communities, we can identify appropriate ways to address these barriers. This includes adapting language, being transparent about processes, supporting informed choice, and collaborating on approaches that reflect community priorities. We prioritise long-term relationships that support genuine collaboration and shared benefit, recognising that trust and meaningful impact are built over time, not through one-off information sharing.

## Be explicit about practical impacts

Respectful communication includes being clear about the practical realities of stem cell donation. People want to understand how donation may affect their time, work, family responsibilities, travel and recovery before they decide whether to take part.

- Being open and specific about what's involved helps build trust and supports informed choice. Avoid vague reassurance. Where possible, explain what each stage involves, how long it may take, and what support is available, so people can make decisions that fit their life and circumstances.

# 4. Terminology and language

Language is not fixed. The terms used to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples continue to evolve, and preferences may vary between communities, regions and individuals. When in doubt, it is important to listen, ask respectfully, and follow the preferences of the people you are engaging with.

Terminology and language can have a big impact on engagement.

The following guidance aims to support culturally safe, respectful and effective engagement.

| Tip                                                                                                                                              | Avoid Using                                                                                                                                         | Why                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Use inclusive language, such as 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples'                                                                  | Abbreviation of Aboriginal or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander into 'ATSI', 'Aborigines', 'Islanders' 'natives' or 'Indigenous'                | These terms are seen as highly offensive and lack respect for the many different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and cultures. People may identify as either Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, or both depending on their ancestry or family lineage. |
| Capitalise key terms such as Traditional Owners, Custodians, Elders, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Peoples, Land/Country, First Nations | traditional owner/custodian, elder, aboriginal, torres strait, people, land/country                                                                 | Capitalisation shows respect for culture, cultural authority and identity.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Acknowledge connection to Country, Land, Sea and Waters                                                                                          | References to only Land or Sea – acknowledging different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have connections to Land, Sea, Waters or all | Shows respect and understanding for the connection, sense of belonging and identify of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.                                                                                                                                 |

| Tip                                           | Avoid Using                                                                                                            | Why                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Use people-first and strengths-based language | Language that frames Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples primarily in terms of deficit, risk or disadvantage | Deficit-based language can reinforce stigma and undermine trust. Strengths-based language recognises resilience, culture and community as central to wellbeing.                                  |
| Respect local and individual preferences      | Assuming one term or label applies to everyone                                                                         | Preferred terminology can differ across Nations, communities and individuals. Where appropriate, asking respectfully how someone prefers to identify supports cultural safety and shows respect. |
| Avoid unnecessary collective labels           | Broad collective terms when more specific language is known and appropriate                                            | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are not a single group. Using specific language where possible acknowledges diversity, identity and cultural authority.                            |

## Using analogies to explain health concepts

Our research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people shows that analogies can be an effective way to explain unfamiliar health concepts, particularly when scientific or medical terms feel complex or intimidating. Linking new information to something people already understand helps reduce fear, build confidence and support informed decision-making.

For example, comparing stem cell donation to blood donation helped many participants better understand the process at a basic level, even if they had never donated blood themselves. Familiar reference points can make it easier to explain what stem cells are, how donation works, and what the experience may involve, without relying on technical language.

When using analogies:

- Choose comparisons that are widely understood and culturally neutral
- Be clear about where the analogy helps understanding, and where the process may differ

- Avoid imagery or language that could exaggerate pain, risk or invasiveness
- Use analogies as a starting point for conversation, not as a substitute for clear and accurate information

Used thoughtfully, analogies can support learning, reduce uncertainty and help people feel more comfortable asking questions about stem cell donation.

## Clinical terms

Overly clinical terms used in isolation can be a barrier for some people. It might make the process seem overwhelming or fearful. People might feel shame, be embarrassed or disengage if they don't understand or feel it is not suitable for them.

The following tips clarify how to avoid or further describe clinical terminology.

| Clinical terms                     | Descriptors                                                                                                                                                                               | Why                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cells                              | Tiny building blocks that make up the body. Cells work together to keep your blood, immune system and organs healthy.                                                                     | The word “cell” is commonly used in health care but is rarely explained. Using plain, descriptive language helps people understand what is happening in their body and supports informed decision-making. |
| Peripheral Blood Stem Cells (PBSC) | Blood stem cells. Healthy cells found in the blood that help replace damaged or sick blood cells. These are the cells most often donated to help someone with a blood cancer or disorder. | Using “blood stem cells” makes the concept more familiar and reduces fear by linking it to blood, which many people already recognise. Use diagrams where possible to help explain.                       |
| Bone marrow                        | Where your blood cells are made.                                                                                                                                                          | Explaining bone marrow as where blood cells are made helps reduce fear and confusion, and supports a clearer understanding of how stem cells work in the body.                                            |

| Clinical terms                | Descriptors                                                                                                                                                            | Why                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Autologous transplant         | Using your own cells for your transplant                                                                                                                               | Explaining the process using simple terms will help people to understand what will happen to their own body                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Tissue typing                 | Finding the right match                                                                                                                                                | Demonstrate the benefit beyond clinical terms, to collective wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Transplantation               | Taking healthy stem cells from someone and giving them to someone whose stem cells are sick                                                                            | Building understanding about what personal actions are contributing to the health and wellbeing of another person                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) | The “ID tags” in your cells.                                                                                                                                           | Simplifying clinical terms and not using acronyms will allow for greater understanding and make less daunting. Explaining why this is an important part of the process will also assist in breaking down any fear. E.g. Doctors look at cells to find the best match for donation to increase the chance of success. |
| Genetic match                 | A close match in the “ID tags” on your cells. Doctors compare markers on blood cells to find a donor whose cells are most likely to be accepted by the patient’s body. | Acknowledge the importance of identity as being significant in the donor matching process                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

| Clinical terms                                          | Descriptors                                                                            | Why                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Harvest                                                 | Collecting healthy stem cells                                                          | ‘Harvest’ can imply a negative feeling towards taking something from someone’s body over the benefit of being a consenting donor to support a positive health benefit to someone when they are unwell                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Related/Unrelated Donor                                 | Donors who are blood-related family members vs who are not                             | <p>Acknowledge that colonisation has resulted in some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People not having knowledge of/direct connection with their blood relatives.</p> <p>There also exists trauma around conversations around blood as a result of the assimilation policy, attempting to ‘breed out’ Aboriginality amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.</p> <p>Use language that is mindful of the above whilst also specifying why the difference in donors is important, where possible.</p> |
| Granulocyte Colony Stimulating Factor (GCSF) injections | Injections of medicine that can boost how many stem cells you have available to donate | Explaining the purpose and benefit of this procedure and what to expect can ease worry regarding the medical procedures. Please also note the word ‘colony’ would have a negative connotation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| Clinical terms      | Descriptors                                                                             | Why                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Work-up appointment | A full health check-up before donation to make sure you are healthy and ready to donate | Explaining the process using simple terms will help people to understand what will happen to their own body. E.g. A work-up appointment is designed to ensure the donor is healthy and safe to donate. It involves blood tests, scans and a doctor's visit to make sure you and your body are ready to donate. |



# 5. The Language Guide in practice

Stem Cell Donors Australia raises awareness and encourages young people to become stem cell donors by offering straightforward, accessible explanations of the donation process and addressing both motivators and barriers.

## Key messages

- Blood cancers like leukaemia can be treated with a stem cell transplant, but only if doctors can find a donor that shares the same “ID tags” in their blood.
- For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, finding a match is harder because there are not enough Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander donors on the registry.
- Having more mob on the registry helps look after mob. It means Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have a better chance of finding a match if they ever need treatment.
- You only donate if you are a close match to a patient. Matching is based on “ID tags” in your blood, so people are more likely to match with someone who shares a similar background.
- The first step is simple. Joining the registry starts with a cheek swab or a blood sample, which many people find easy and straightforward.
- Most stem cell donations are made through blood, similar to donating blood or plasma. If you’re ever matched, everything is explained clearly so you can decide what’s right for you.
- It’s normal to have questions or worries about pain, time away from family or work, or what happens to your information. Clear, honest information is part of the process so people can make informed choices.
- You are always in control. Joining the registry doesn’t mean you have to donate, and you can change your mind at any time.
- This is about community, not individuals. When more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples join, it strengthens the chance of life-saving matches for mob across the country.

## Registration and donation: Step-by-step

1. **Register online:** Fill in a short online form and choose to either swab your cheek at home or provide a blood sample at Lifeblood.
2. **Provide your sample:** Swab your cheek at home or go to Lifeblood to give a blood sample.
3. **Find a match:** Doctors check the register when someone needs a healthy donor. This can happen any time up to your 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you are a match, the team will contact you to ask you some questions and check if you would like to donate.
4. **Work-up appointment:** A full health check-up before donation to make sure you are healthy and ready to donate.
5. **Donate blood stem cells:** You'll be asked to come in to make a donation, where your blood or occasionally bone marrow is used to collect the healthy cells.

## Addressing Barriers and Concerns

We recognise that people may have various concerns or misconceptions about stem cell donation. Our approach is to share information that is both reassuring, transparent and builds trust overtime.

We know travel, time away from family and work, and being far from home can affect decisions about donation. Support is available at every stage, including for people living in regional and remote areas.

### Will it hurt?

Most donations are made by taking blood – it's a lot like donating blood or plasma. You might feel a bit tired or sore or have some bruising afterward. Many people say it is less painful than they think it will be. It takes around 4 – 6 hours, and you get to sit in a chair with snacks and downtime to scroll your phone, watch TikToks or stream a movie.

Some donors say they feel aching in their bones and tired, like when they are sick. Recovering from donating blood stem cells is like recovering from a blood donation.

For people who give bone marrow, it is a different procedure. You will go to the hospital and be put to sleep using a general anaesthetic so you can't feel any pain. The bone marrow is then taken from your hip. It can take around 1 hour.

Some donors feel a little bit of pain in their hip or back where the donation took place, but that only lasts a day or two. Most donors are back to their regular routines within a week.

## **Is it safe and will it impact my health?**

Yes, it is safe. There are no long-term impacts to your own health from providing a donation. Doctors will only go ahead if it's safe for you and will explain any risks to you. Your body naturally replaces the stem cells within 4 to 6 weeks.

## **Does it cost? What if I have to travel?**

There is no cost to donate stem cells, other than your time.

If you're a match, we'll support you with travel and accommodation, including if you're travelling from a regional or remote area to attend appointments or donate.

We'll also help you understand what time away from work might look like and provide information you can share with your employer if needed.

You can bring a support person, and we'll cover their travel costs too. We'll stay in touch before and after donation to check in and make sure you're okay.

## **What happens to my DNA from the cheek swab?**

When you do a cheek swab, it is used to read a small set of markers from your DNA. These markers help doctors see who you might be a good match for, if someone needs a stem cell transplant.

The cheek swab is only used for matching. Your DNA is not used for research. It is not shared with anyone else. The information from your cheek swab is stored securely so the registry can check, over time, whether you might match someone who needs help.

## **Who will get my donation?**

Your stem cell donation will only go to a patient who is a very close genetic match to you. This means the person you donate to shares important genetic similarities with you and, in many cases, comes from a similar ancestral background. You could think of them as genetic kin, even if you don't know each other. Because close matches are more likely within the same ancestry, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander donors play an important role in helping find a match.

## How much time does stem cell donation take?

If you're ever matched with a patient, there are three stages. Each step is explained clearly before you go ahead, and you're supported the whole way. These stages usually happen over a period of time, not all at once.

### 1. Verification

This starts with a phone call from our team to go through a basic health questionnaire. The call takes about 30 minutes.

You'll also be asked to visit your local Lifeblood donor centre to give a blood sample, which usually takes around 30 minutes.

### 2. Assessment (work-up appointment)

If you're chosen to move forward (which can sometimes take around 3 months), you'll attend a work-up appointment to make sure you're healthy and ready to donate. This is a full health check and usually takes about 4 hours.

### 3. Donation

Your donation is booked for a specific day that works with your availability.

The donation itself usually takes around 4–6 hours, and you'll be supported and looked after throughout the day.

At every stage, you're given information, time to ask questions, and space to decide what feels right for you. You can pause or step back at any point.

## Will my stem cell donation be used for research?

No. Your stem cell donation will only ever be used to help the patient you are matched with.

When you donate stem cells, they are collected specifically for that one person and transplanted directly into them. Your donation is not used for research, not shared with another patient, and no extra cells are collected “just in case”. Your donation is collected specifically for the patient you are matched with.

If, for any reason, the donation is not used, it is handled according to strict medical and hospital protocols. It is not stored or used for research without your explicit consent.

If research is ever suggested in the future, you would be asked again and given clear information before deciding. You can say no, and nothing else changes.

## What if I have a health condition, or I smoke or drink?

Everyone is different, and eligibility to donate is always assessed case by case.

If you're matched with a patient, doctors will carefully check your health to make sure donation is safe for you. Donation will only go ahead if it's safe for your body.

Having a chronic health condition, smoking, or drinking alcohol does not automatically mean you can't donate. The medical team will talk with you about your individual situation and answer any questions before you decide.

## Mythbusting

| Myth                                                  | Facts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stem cell donation means surgery                      | <p>In most cases, no surgery is needed – it is just like giving blood or plasma.</p> <p>Sometimes, about 8% of the time, surgery may be needed to take the donation from your hip. You will be put to sleep by a general anaesthetic and it takes about 1 hour.</p>                                                  |
| It hurts a lot or causes harm                         | <p>It's very safe, and your body replaces the cells quickly. You will have a health check before your donation to make sure it is safe for you. We will also check in with you after a donation to make sure that you are fully recovered and provide any support you might need to make sure that you are okay.</p> |
| You're locked in forever to provide ongoing donations | <p>You can opt out at any time – you're in control. You will be contacted once a positive match has been identified, and you can decide whether or not to continue with the donation and whether or not to stay on the register if your circumstances change.</p>                                                    |
| It's scary and culturally unsafe.                     | <p>There's support every step of the way, including financial assistance for any travel or tests you need to do. We also encourage you to have conversations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers or community leaders to discuss culturally specific matters.</p>                              |

## 6. Further guidance

For more detailed advice on appropriate terminology and respectful language use, refer to the following resources:



**Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet Guidelines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Terminology**

[Click here to view](#) or scan the QR code



**Communicating Positively: A Guide to Appropriate Aboriginal Terminology**

[Click here to view](#) or scan the QR code



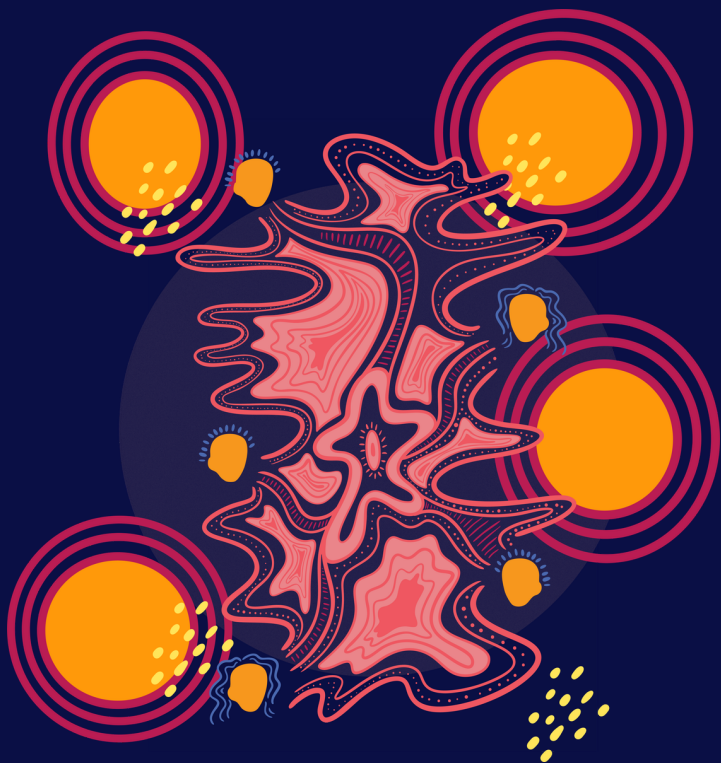
**Plain English Health Dictionary (NT AIS):**

[Click here to view](#) or scan the QR code



**Talking about genes and our health: Frequently Asked Questions (National Centre for Indigenous Genomics):**

[Click here to view](#) or scan the QR code



**Molly Hunt**  
**Artist**

Molly Hunt is a Balanggarra and Yolngu multidisciplinary artist who works between animation, illustration, and design. She creates immersive stories that explore connection, memory, and the invisible threads that bind people, communities, and Country. Her practice is both grounded in place and expansive in imagination, weaving the mystical and the everyday into bold, resonant visuals.

“This work is an abstract portrayal of the invisible ties that bind us — the movement of bloodlines, lifelines, and flowlines between donor and recipient. For me, it’s a meditation on generosity, connection, and the way one life can carry another forward.”

“The shapes and lines move like currents, weaving and merging, a reminder that no one exists in isolation. We are all part of a shared rhythm, a larger story. Through this piece I wanted to honour the quiet, powerful act of giving, and the way it echoes beyond the individual — becoming part of something collective, something eternal.”

Artwork by Molly Hunt, commissioned  
by Stem Cell Donors Australia in  
collaboration with 33 Creative.

