

Blood stem cell donation **for** **employers**



Blood stem cell donation offers a chance to save someone's life. Many registered donors are employed, and when called upon, they require time off work and support to complete the donation process.

Stem Cell Donors Australia facilitates a database of registered volunteers who are matched to patients looking for a blood stem cell transplant to treat their blood cancer or disorder.

Blood stem cell transplants are usually the last line of treatment in the hope to cure a patient.

This is a rare opportunity, as only one in 1,500 registered blood stem cell volunteers is asked to donate.

Unlike a simple blood donation, a blood stem cell donation requires a donor to provide blood samples, answer questionnaires and attend a pre-screening appointment. Preparing for donation, the day itself and a couple of days after may result in side effects and fatigue.

As an employer, we ask that you take the time to understand the blood stem cell donation process and offer the support your employee needs to donate.



Dayne, blood stem cell
transplant recipient

What does your employee need from you?

Flexibility

The donation process will need time away from work. Here are some ways that could minimise the disruption:

- **Flexible work schedule:** allow flexible working arrangements before, during and a few days after donation. Stem Cell Donors Australia works with hospitals to arrange donation-related appointments around a donor's commitments, including work.
- **Paid leave:** Many companies offer paid time off for volunteer activities. Extending this benefit to a blood stem cell donation reinforces a company's commitment to employee well-being and social responsibility.

In 90% of cases, a shorter donation method is chosen

Peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) donation is often an outpatient procedure. Donors typically recover within days.

Open communication

Discuss potential leave options with your employee.

Reduce physically demanding tasks

Due to some of the side effects felt by donors, it is recommended that donors opt for lighter duties.

Why support blood stem cell donation?

Enhanced employee morale and loyalty

Employees feel valued when employers support their desire to help others. This can lead to increased loyalty and retention.

You're helping to save someone's life

Not just anyone can donate blood stem cells. A donor who is identified as the most suitable match is the best and last possible chance at survival for someone with blood cancer.

Supporting a charitable cause

Supporting blood stem cell donation portrays the company as socially responsible and can attract talent who share similar values. Donating is voluntary, and employees often use their volunteering hours towards the donation.

What can our company do to help blood cancer patients?

There are ways companies can get involved in blood stem cell donation.

Volunteer leave

If you offer volunteer leave, let your employees know they can apply for it during the donation process.

Awareness & advocacy

Blood stem cell donation is a relatively unknown but life-saving act. We invite you to organise a complimentary Lunch & Learn for all employees to help raise awareness of blood stem cell donation and its potential to cure blood cancers and disorders. We can also provide you with digital and printed resources to help.

Skilled volunteers

We welcome the opportunity to work with experienced professionals in various roles and industries. Please reach out to explore skilled volunteering opportunities.

Corporate giving

If your organisation offers corporate giving, consider supporting Stem Cell Donors Australia with one-off or ongoing corporate giving opportunities.

To explore these opportunities, please email us:

donorcomms@stemcelldonors.org.au

This could be a life-changing moment for a patient, and supporting your employee can make all the difference.

The blood stem cell donation process

To be able to fully support your employee, we recommend watching **[this short video](#)** to understand the blood stem cell donation process.

For more information, visit our website: [Stem Cell Donors Australia](#).



Alexander, blood stem cell donor



Stem Cell Donors Australia