



media release

3 October 2007

Premier announces life saving facility for WA.

West Australians are set to benefit from the establishment of Western Australia's first public cord blood bank.

The Premier, Hon Alan Carpenter MLA was today at the Australian Red Cross Blood Service to present a Lotterywest cheque for \$2,278,385 towards the establishment of the Rotary WA Cord Blood Bank.

The Lotterywest grant means that the construction phase of this facility, which will potentially offer life saving treatment to critically ill patients can soon commence.

Rotary International selected the cord blood facility in WA as its gift to all West Australians to celebrate its 100 years of international service in 2005.

Requiring \$6 million to make the project a reality, Rotary has undertaken a vigorous fundraising campaign with significant donations coming from individuals and corporate organisations.

Lotterywest has contributed over \$2.27 million towards the project, of which \$2 million will enable building renovations and extensions to the current Red Cross premises in Wellington Street, Perth to house the Rotary WA Cord Blood Bank. The remaining Lotterywest grant has been spent on a comprehensive community education and awareness campaign.

Mr Carpenter said that the support of Lotterywest would enable the construction phase to commence in the near future and will provide WA with a world class facility.

"Rotary WA and Red Cross should be congratulated on taking the initiative to establish a public cord blood bank in WA" he said.

"All West Australian's are set to benefit from the establishment of this facility in Perth."

Cord blood will be collected from the placenta and umbilical cord of mothers who have given their consent and will be available free of charge to patients needing cord blood transplants. Cord Blood is a very rich source of stem cells and a transplant can mean the difference between life and death.

It is expected that the Rotary WA Cord Blood Bank will be part of AusCord, the national cord blood registry and will be managed from the Australia Red Cross Blood Service in accordance with stringent standards and regulatory controls