



# Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

4 August, 2020

## VICSES blood donations almost doubled – and still a month to go in the Blood Challenge!



**Phil Pascall will shave off his beard to get others involved**

The 2020 Emergency Services Blood Challenge is two thirds of the way through, and VICSES members are well on their way to eclipsing last year's total.

147 individual VICSES volunteers have made **251** donations so far, an increase of 48% from this time in 2019. The highest number of donations of whole blood, plasma and platelets have been made at the **Geelong** and **Melbourne CBD** Donor Centres.

Three lives can be saved by just one blood donation, meaning VICSES members may have helped up to **753 people** who have had medical complications, cancer treatment, road trauma injuries and more.

To drive awareness for the challenge, Emerald unit Deputy Controller Phillip Pascall (pictured above) has committed to sacrificing his beloved beard to encourage others to donate. With one month to go, he is confident numbers can grow even higher.

Phillip says, "I have made appointment with Australia Red Cross Lifeblood and will shave my beard, too. The Emergency Service Lifeblood Challenge shows VICSES volunteers, who already tasked with saving life and property all year 'round, won't hesitate in going one step further for fellow Victorians."



Emergency service workers and volunteers who want to take part should join a Lifeblood Team, and call **13 14 95** or go online to make a blood donation appointment before 31 August. Australia Red Cross Lifeblood centres are an essential service remain open during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Donors are reminded that Lifeblood facilities across Victoria are strictly regulated, and always comply with the highest safety and hygiene standards, including extensive cleaning. [Read the full update here.](#)