Blood donors now wanted for new bank

Gosford District Hospital has gone ahead in leaps and bounds during the past few years — but perhaps the most vital aspect of its advancement is the new blood bank, which will go into operation early this year.

The establishment of a blood bank is a most important development in local medical services.

It will mean that blood will be readily available in case of emergency, without the delay which now results when supplies must come from Sydney.

A mobile unit previously visited the shire twice a year, but this was not always convenient for donors and only a limited number of people could be dealt with at a time.

But a blood bank cannot be built up without the co-operation of local citizens — in many cases the same citizens who will one day benefit from its services.

At present about 500 people in the shire are giving blood, but a minimum of 2000 donors will soon be needed.

The numbers must be built up quickly, and with this aim in mind, assistance is being sought from all eligible persons, many of whom do not realise how badly their help is needed.

This is a community service in which most people can join without cost to themselves.

Surveys have shown that every year one person in 80 requires a blood transfusion — and this number will increase with increasing road accidents.

Many people will be surprised how easy it is to become a blood donor.

The only requirement is that a donor must be in good general health and between the ages of 18 and 60.

The Gosford blood bank will be located at the Gosford Hospital and hours will be: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except every fourth Friday, when it will open from 8 a.m. to noon).

Every fourth Saturday the hours will also be 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

A minimum of 2000 donors will be needed, but there will be no limit on the number able to donate blood.

A person will not be able to give blood more often than once in every three months — the actual giving of blood is simple and harmless and takes approximately 30 minutes, including 10 minutes for refreshments.

Most employers allow their staff time off work to give blood, but the bank's hours of operation will be varied to suit the donor if necessary.

Appointments will be made and there will be no waiting.

Intending donors should contact Sister Day at Gosford Hospital (phons 2/71) to make the necessary arrangements.