



Haemophilia – *factors that matter*

Haemophilia Awareness Week
12-18 October 2008

- Haemophilia is a **genetic** bleeding disorder where an essential **clotting** factor is deficient. Bleeding is mostly **internal**, usually into joints or muscles.
- Haemophilia is usually **inherited**, but in 1/3 of cases it appears in families with no family history through a genetic mutation. The haemophilia gene is passed down from a parent to a child.
- The most severe forms of haemophilia affect almost only **males**. **Women who carry the haemophilia gene may also** have bleeding problems.
- **Haemophilia is incurable**, and it can be life threatening if untreated. Treatment is with replacement clotting factor.
- In Australia there are around **3500 people** with haemophilia, von Willebrand disorder or other related inherited bleeding disorders.
- **High quality care and treatment is available in Australia**. However, 75% of people with bleeding disorders throughout the world are undiagnosed and untreated, particularly where health care is not well resourced.
- **von Willebrand disorder (vWD)** is a bleeding disorder which affects **males** and **females** and is usually inherited. People with vWD have a problem with a protein in their blood that helps control bleeding. They do not have enough of the protein or it does not work the way it should. It takes longer for blood to clot and for bleeding to stop. Many people with vWD have a mild form; however some people may require treatment.

To contact Haemophilia Foundation Australia or your local foundation call
1800 807 173

www.haemophilia.org.au



HAEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

