

Mediaportal Report

07/09/2009

▶ **Tenacious toddler owes smile to donors**
Adelaide Advertiser, 07/09/09, General News, Page 3
By: None

Clip Ref: **00056662865**
231 words



Tenacious toddler owes smile to donors

CALLIE WATSON

ANGUS Bond may be only 18 months old, but he already owes his life to blood donors.

For each month of his short life, the Stirling toddler has undergone a blood transfusion to keep him alive and manage a rare condition called Diamond Blackfan anaemia, for which there is no cure.

It means Angus's bone marrow cannot produce enough red blood cells to move oxygen around his body and is a condition suffered by only 800 people throughout the world.

Dad Jeff, 36, said while the campaign to donate blood may be nothing more than a "throwaway line" for some, his family, including daughter Molly, 6, and son Ted, 4, understand its importance.

"Being on the other side, you realise just how incredibly important it is, Angus's life depends on donations," he said.

Today is the start of National Blood Donor Week and 2009 is the Year of the Blood Donor.

In South Australia, more than 2500 blood donations are needed each week and every donation can help save three lives.



BRAVE LITTLE BOY: Angus Bond with his mum Jess, dad Jeff, sister Molly and brother Ted in Stirling.

Picture: SIMON CROSS

The Advertiser is supporting the Red Cross Blood Service during National Blood Donor Week. Why don't you find out your blood type (it's either A, B or O) and do something special: Give blood. Phone 131 495 or visit www.donateblood.com.au