

# "Dear Agony Aunt..... To Whom It May Concern"

Hi to all the varying members of the HFV community in Victoria both affected and living with the variants of bleeding disorders that exist. We would like to offer an "agony aunt" column in the HFV newsletter to provide an chance to ask a variety of questions relating to you or someone you know and living with a bleeding disorder.

Jane Portnoy and I may be known to some of you when attending the HTC at the Alfred Hospital in recent times. Whilst we work with the adult services, we may be able to assist with questions and answers also relating to the Royal Children's Hospital Treatment Centre through our colleagues there. With the changing medical scene over the years, your connection and attendance at the HTC can vary and sometimes you may need to have certain questions answered that may or may not involve the medical team.

We would like you to consider posting questions in the HFV magazine that Jane & myself can attempt to find the right answer to. Sometimes when members attend the HTC, you may not be sure who to ask or feel embarrassed to ask, especially if it's of a more personal or private nature.

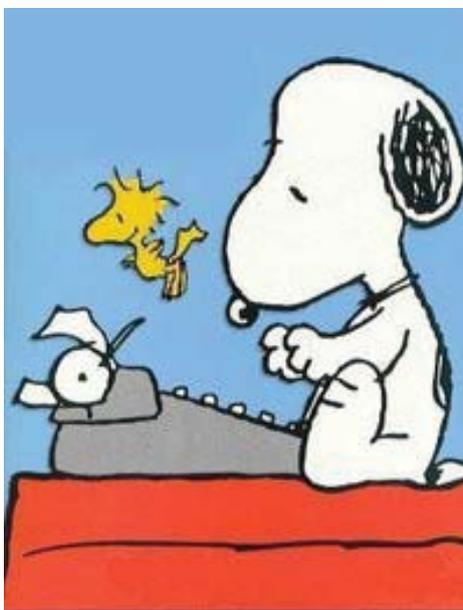
Questions can vary from matters affecting your relationships with family or partner, sexual orientation & intimacy and having a bleeding disorder, disclosure issues of your bleeding disorder within the work place, potential partners, varying insurance and legal issues (we have access to lawyers from Maurice Blackburn several times a week) to services with-in the hospital system.

A common issue is around insurances such health, travel & income protection and the need to ensure that you disclose pre-existing medical condition that can bump the premium you pay.

With the recent postal survey on Marriage Equality, it may have triggered some doubts or uncertainties or questions you have been pondering.

We may be able to direct you to other resources and services for more detailed answer.

You can post the question anonymously, using an alias or just your 1st name, it's up to you. We will not use your contact details in print to protect your privacy.



However thereafter, we could offer you a more one on one time if the matter continues to be unresolved.

Here is an example...

***I am applying for jobs in retail over the university holidays and am not sure how much I***

***should tell the employer about my bleeding disorder?***

***Dear Paul,***

***This is a great question.***

***Legally you only have to tell the employer if it is going to effect your capacity to work, you are applying for a new superannuation, or it is for the police or defense force.***

***However there was a wonderful discussion at the conference 2017 where many of the audience participants suggested that they had had great outcomes when they told their future employer and took the responsibility for themselves.***

***They found that they got the respect from their employer, and were able to demonstrate that they were able to do the job. The other benefit was that they were well supported when they needed to take leave due to a bleed.***

***Good luck with the job seeking.***

Please send in your questions by the 1st February to [julia@hfv.org.au](mailto:julia@hfv.org.au) or [A.Coombs@alfred.org.au](mailto:A.Coombs@alfred.org.au) & [J.Portnoy@alfred.org.au](mailto:J.Portnoy@alfred.org.au)

***Agony Aunt answers will appear in the Autumn (March) edition of The Missing Factor.***