

## Blood Awareness

- Being blood aware means being alert to the potential or actual presence of blood in any situation or environment.
- It means being alert to the possibility of blood borne organisms or viruses and employing practices to prevent their transmission.
- Blood awareness acknowledges that blood can be exchanged in a range of situations outside the health care setting.
- People who inject drugs need to be aware that even amounts of blood too small to see could pose an infection risk and should practice harm reduction principles to avoid infection.
- Within the home or work place do not share any sharp grooming instruments and be aware of exchanges in which blood may be present for example sharing toothbrushes or razors.
- When dealing with blood or body fluids, gloves should always be worn and other people involved should be made aware of the presence of blood.
- When having tattoos or body piercing people should be alert to the potential presence of blood and ensure that their practitioner is adopting standard infection control procedures.
- Use safe sex practices to minimise the risk of infection.