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THE TIMES

## Call for gay blood donors ban

By Our Science Editor

A call to stop sexually active homosexuals being used as blood donors was made yesterday by Dr Richard Tedder, consultant virologist at Middlesex Hospital, London.

The call comes after action in Australia associated with the deadly disease Aids.

The deaths of three babies there have been attributed to blood transfusions from a man aged 27 suspected of having the disease.

Blood taken from the sus-

pected Aids sufferer was given to four babies in Brisbane Hospital in February. Three died in September and October and the fourth is seriously ill. The inquest into the deaths concluded that Aids was involved.

The Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, has called a meeting today of federal and state health ministers, and doctors and scientists of the country's leading medical schools, the Red Cross, the

Commonwealth Serum Laboratory, and other public health bodies to consider how to prevent contaminated transfusions.

The state government of Queensland, where the babies have died, obtained emergency legislation on Thursday to ban homosexuals from giving blood. The new law calls for a fine of \$A10,000 or two years in jail for people who give false information about the suitability of their blood.

