



MEDIA RELEASE

15 March 2005

Are you the missing link?

Do you have an hour a week to spare? Do you enjoy the company of older people? Would you like to develop an ongoing friendship?

St John Ambulance Australia (NSW) is looking for people to join the LinkAGE™ volunteer program, providing companionship to residents of aged care facilities.

The LinkAGE™ program operates in facilities across Sydney, linking volunteers with people who need a bit of extra friendship.

More than 60 residents in 33 aged care facilities across Sydney have volunteers visiting them for an hour each week and participating in activities such as reading, chatting and letter writing. Facilities in your local area are currently looking for someone who wants to join the program and make a new friend.

“Many LinkAGE™ volunteers have been participating in the program for a number of years and find it extremely rewarding to provide companionship and a link to the outside world,” said Judith Ohana, LinkAGE™ Coordinator.

“The volunteers have a huge impact on an older person’s quality of life, outlook and self-esteem,” said Mrs Ohana.

To join the program volunteers must complete the LinkAGE™ training course, which is designed to equip volunteers with the knowledge and skills necessary to be a companion for a resident in an aged care facility in their community.

The next three-day LinkAGE™ course will be held on Tuesday 12 to Thursday 14 April, 2005 from 9.30am to 2.30pm each day at St John House, 6 Hunt Street, Surry Hills. A discounted booking fee of \$10 covers the cost of the course handbook and morning teas.

For further details or bookings contact St John Community Care Branch on 9219 6842.

ENDS

Interviews and photographs are available on request.

Media Contact: Sarah Jauncey, Public Relations Coordinator, St John (NSW),
T: (02) 0219 6856, M: 0410 220 872