



MEDIA RELEASE

11 July 2006

Become best PALs® with kids and literacy

Do you have an hour a week to spare? Enrol now in a course to learn how to help kids read.

St John (NSW) runs Early Literacy Courses for parents, grandparents or family friends who want to better their child's literacy skills.

The course covers both the theoretical and practical aspects of the reading process as well as addressing values and attitudes and communication skills. It has been developed in consultation with the NSW Department of Education and Training K-6 English Syllabus.

The four day \$90 course will be held in Hornsby on 1 & 2 August and 8 & 9 August. People who complete the course receive a certificate, and are invited to join the St John (NSW) Program to Aid Literacy (PALs®), a volunteer program designed to help primary school students who have problems with reading and writing.

PALs® operates in primary schools across NSW, linking volunteers with a child who needs that extra bit of help with learning. Volunteers spend an hour a week during school time assisting children one on one or in small groups.

"Many PALs® volunteers have been participating in the program for a number of years and find it extremely rewarding to provide that extra bit of help to a child learning to read and write," said Alayna Sutcliffe, PALs™ Coordinator.

"The Early Literacy Course provides the skills for people who are interested in becoming a PALs® volunteer, as well as encouraging mums, dads and grandparents to help out their own young ones," she said.

For further details or bookings contact St John on 02 9219 6842.

Course Details;

Location: Willow Park Community Centre, Hornsby
Date: Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 August and Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 August,
9.30am to 2.30pm
Cost: \$90
Bookings: 02 9219 6842

ENDS

Contact: Kate Kelly, St John (NSW), T: (02) 0219 6856, M: 0410 220 872