



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 9 June

International award for St John Volunteer

St John Volunteer, John Spencer AM has been internationally awarded the highest award within the Order of St John, the Bailiff Grand Cross.

The recommendation to approve Mr Spencer's award came from the Grand Prior of the Order, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Gloucester. The Governor-General of Australia Major General Michael Jeffery will invest Mr Spencer with his award at Government House, Canberra on July 7.

"I feel very honoured to have received this award. The conferring of such a rare honour speaks very highly of the regard in which St John in Australia is held internationally and within Australia, is a tribute to the work carried out in New South Wales.

The Bailiff Grand Cross is an extraordinary award; there are only 21 Bailiffs Grand Cross at any one time worldwide. There are only three other Bailiffs currently in Australia.

Mr Spencer joined St John as a cadet in 1949 and has held numerous important positions within the organisation over his 57 years of service. In 1975 John was admitted to the Order of St John and made a Knight of the Order in 1990.

In 2002 John was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his planning, leadership and involvement in the Sydney 2000 Olympics Games. This involved coordinating some 1,200 members from seven countries. St John received one of only two special awards from the International Olympic Committee.

Mr Spencer was St John Commander of the multi state response to the January 1994 bushfires around Sydney. This effort earned St John the Premier's Meritorious Service plaque, an Australian Chief Commissioner's Commendation and Special Commendation from the NSW Ambulance Service.

Mr Spencer was recognised for his voluntary services to St John by the Honours and Awards Committee of the Order in the United Kingdom.

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