



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# Cessnock St John (NSW) Division Receives Volunteer Small Equipment Grant (VSEG)

Cessnock St John (NSW) Division has been successful in gaining a \$2149.00 grant as part of the Volunteer Small Equipment Grants 2007.

7,700 organisations across Australia will receive one of these grants, with funding of over \$16.8 million being allocated to help Australia's volunteers carry on with their vital work.

The grants of up to \$3000 each aim to encourage and support volunteers by enabling organisations to purchase equipment that contributes to making volunteering activities easier, safer and/or more enjoyable.

Cessnock St John (NSW) Division will use the grant to purchase first aid and training equipment.

The Division currently has 9 volunteers, providing many hours of service and treating many casualties every year. The division has been in operation for only two years.

Many of these volunteers are on duty at large events including the New Year's Eve celebrations, but for most local residents, St John volunteers are best known for their presence at local sporting, school and community events. Local volunteers provide medical assistance at events including the motocross and events at vineyards.

David Corrie, Divisional Superintendent, St John (NSW) Cessnock Division, comments:

"We are thrilled to receive this grant as it will help us continue our vital work in the local community.

"We are proud to be able to offer such a valuable service to local residents and encourage anyone who is interested to get involved with St John.

"Many young volunteers have found St John to be a valuable stepping-stone for careers as an ambulance officer, nurse or in medicine."

The Division has also received funding this year from Emergency Management Australia (EMA) for IT equipment, and from the East Cessnock Bowling Club and Cessnock RSL to purchase first aid supplies.



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The Cessnock St John (NSW) Division meets every Thursday at the Koe-Nara Centre at Cessnock Public School.

St John (NSW) is always looking for new volunteers to join their Divisions. First Aid volunteers learn and practice First Aid, family care and other subjects to enhance their life saving skills. Members can attend training courses to learn advanced First Aid and life saving skills, communications, leadership training and participate in special event training such as major incident management courses.

Next month (October), St John is kicking off a new campaign called 'Save a Life', which aims to raise awareness of first aid and increase life saving first aid skills within the community. The theme Save a Life is about being able to save lives as a St John volunteer or learning first aid to have the skills to save a life.

To get involved in the campaign or become a St John volunteer please visit [www.stjohnnsw.com.au](http://www.stjohnnsw.com.au) or call 1300 360 455.

**ENDS**

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