



# MEDIA RELEASE

14 July 2008

## St John volunteers together for their World Youth Day welcome gathering tonight!

Over 300 St John Ambulance volunteers will come together tonight to celebrate the start of World Youth Day by taking part in a welcome gathering at the Roundhouse, Randwick from 6:30pm.

The night will include a briefing and induction to help prepare volunteers for the week, as well as a dinner to thank them for the fantastic service they will provide to event-goers throughout World Youth Day.

St John Ambulance Australia is the official provider of first aid at World Youth Day, with more than 500 St John volunteers from Australia, United Kingdom and South Africa.

St John will provide rapid response teams, First Aid post teams and an Advanced Casualty Management Centre (ACMC). The ACMC will be staffed by volunteer medical officers, nurses and paramedics, as well as appropriately experienced St John members. Members will liaise with Ambulance Service NSW (ASNSW) and NSW HEALTH to provide the very best in first aid response treatment.

Major General Warren Glenny, Commissioner of St John Ambulance Australia (NSW), comments:

“The presence of both international and local St John volunteers at World Youth Day is a demonstration of their ongoing commitment to the community. We are proud that our volunteers enable the valuable work of St John to continue.

St John is encouraging those attending World Youth Day to seek out their closest St John First Aid post if they are in need of first aid or medical assistance during the event.

St John First Aid posts will be situated at:

### **Tuesday 15 – Friday 18 July**

- CBD Venues:
  - Hyde Park = 2 posts
  - St Mary's Cathedral = 1 post (only operational on Friday 18 July)
  - Domain = 2 posts
  - Sydney Opera House = 1 post
- Barangaroo = 12 posts
- Darling Harbour = 4 posts
- Mary Mckillop Place = 1 post



### **Saturday 19 July**

- Randwick Racecourse= 22 posts
- Pilgrim Walk = 8 posts (including Egress on Saturday night)
- Mary Mckillop Place = 1 post

### **Sunday 20 July**

- Randwick Racecourse= 22 posts
- Centennial Park = 12 posts
- Ingress/Egress Sunday = 3 posts
- Mary Mckillop Place = 1 post

To keep safe at all events St John urges those attending to follow some basic first aid tips:

- If you are sleeping out bring warm clothes, including a waterproof jacket, warm hat, thick socks, warm sleeping bag and thick ground sheet
- Bring wet weather gear
- Keep your fluids up by drinking plenty of water
- Throughout the day don't forget to apply sunscreen every two hours and to wear a hat
- Plan when you will eat so you don't skip a meal
- Bring your own prescribed medications, such as ventolin and insulin
- Beware of broken glass when walking and sitting
- If you or any of your family or friends need help, seek out your nearest St John post and a volunteer will assist you

**ENDS**

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