

MEDIA RELEASE

19 June 2008

Learn first aid to help St John celebrate 125 years of service

On Tuesday 24 June 2008 St John Ambulance Australia officially turns 125, and as part of celebrations, St John is encouraging the community to get involved with the organisation by learning first aid.

Sean Gavin, Chief Executive Officer, St John (NSW), comments:

“St John is committed to ensuring that everyone is familiar with first aid skills, especially in the workplace and the home where most incidents are likely to happen. Many people find that a knowledge of first aid is very helpful in their family and work lives and recent events reported in the press reinforce the need for first aid training to be a life skill for all members of the community.

“Learning life-saving skills such as those in the Senior First Aid course are the most valuable and important skills you could learn. You never know the life you save may be a loved one or even your own.”

St John’s expertise in first aid continues to contribute significantly to the level of first aid skills across the corporate and industrial sector and the general community. Some 300,000 Australians complete a St John first aid certificate each year.

St John is also encouraging the public to get involved with the organisation by becoming a volunteer. St John provides its 3,500 volunteers in NSW with opportunities to teach the community first aid, to provide first aid at events both small and large across NSW, to help young children in schools with reading, and to assist the NSW Health Department with its immunisation program in schools.

St John (NSW) volunteers provide more than 520,000 hours of voluntary service each year and treat some 36,000 casualties. There are 105 First Aid Volunteer Divisions in NSW, from Lismore to Bega, and Broken Hill to Parramatta.

“All those years ago, St John started out as a first aid training organisation responding to the needs of the day and 125 years later we continue to provide this service to the Australian community. St John has become synonymous with first aid and I would like to publicly thank our members for their dedication and commitment,” said Mr Gavin.

“This is an incredible milestone for St John, and we are extremely proud of our history and our ability to continue to serve. As a self funding charity, money raised through first aid training and the sale of first aid kits supports the work of St John volunteers.”

To find out more about St John and getting involved with us please visit www.stjohnnsw.com.au or call 1300 360 455.

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