

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### St John celebrates 125 years of service

In June 2008 St John Ambulance Australia turns 125, celebrating thousands of hours of first aid training and voluntary community service, and remaining the leading first aid organisation across the country.

As part of celebrations, St John is encouraging the community to get involved with the organisation through one of three ways. This includes becoming a volunteer, doing business with St John through first aid training or buying a first aid kit, or by making a donation to help support our charitable services.

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

“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 training and I would like to publicly thank our members for their dedication and commitment.

“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.”

The St John of today is a modern organisation that 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.

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.

“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”, said Mr Gavin.

To find out more about St John and getting involved with us please visit [www.stjohnnsw.com.au](http://www.stjohnnsw.com.au) or call 1300 360 455.

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