



MEDIA RELEASE

2 September 2008

St John Volunteers Help Children Learn To Read In National Literacy Week

With National Literacy and Numeracy Week being held from 1-7 September, St John (NSW) is encouraging parents, grandparents, family friends or community members to help teach kids to read by attending its Early Literacy Course.

The Early Literacy Course provides the skills for people who are interested in volunteering as part of the St John Program to Aid Literacy (PALs™), as well as encouraging mums, dads and grandparents to help children in their own family.

The PALs™ Program operates in primary schools across NSW, linking volunteers with a child who need that extra help with learning.

Volunteers spend an hour a week during school time assisting children one-on-one or in small groups.

Community Care Manager Marcia Chalmers believes that the program is incredibly rewarding for volunteers of all ages as well as the children.

“Many PALs™ volunteers have been participating in the program for a number of years and find it very rewarding to assist a child learning to read, write and comprehend.” said Miss Chalmers.

The St John (NSW) course covers both the theoretical and practical aspects of the reading process as well as addressing values and attitudes and communication skills.

The course reflects the NSW Department of Education and Training K-6 English Syllabus and the funding provided by the Minister for Education and Training acknowledges the value of the program.

The four day course costs \$25 and is held across NSW throughout the year.

It is also available by Distance Learning.

To volunteer and help children learn to read, please call St John (NSW) Community Care on 02 9219 6842.

Course Details

Bathurst

Location: St John Branch Office, 217 Howick Street, Bathurst
Date: Four-day course over the following days: 20, 21, 22, 23 October
Time: 9.30am to 2.30pm each day
Cost: \$10 *due to the generous support of Stretching the Envelope Program* (participants who apply and are accepted as a volunteer can apply for a refund after active volunteering for six months)

Surry Hills

Location: St John House, 6 Hunt Street, Surry Hills
Date: Four-day course over the following days: 27, 28 October 4, 5 November
Time: 9.30am to 2.30pm each day
Cost: \$25 (participants who apply and are accepted as a volunteer can apply for a refund after active volunteering for six months)

Newcastle

Location: St John Branch Office, Court Street, Adamstown
Date: Four-day course over the following days: 3, 4, 10, 11 November
Time: 9.30am to 2.30pm each day
Cost: \$25 (participants who apply and are accepted as a volunteer can apply for a refund after active volunteering for six months)

Wollongong

Location: St John Branch Office, 30 Kenny Street, Wollongong
Date: Four-day course over the following days: 10, 11, 12, 13 November
Time: 9.30am to 2.30pm each day
Cost: \$25 (participants who apply and are accepted as a volunteer can apply for a refund after active volunteering for six months)

The Course is available via Distance Learning if people are unable to travel to a training venue.

ENDS

Images are available on request; interviews can be arranged with local trainers and the course coordinator.

Further information and interviews:

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