

MEDIA RELEASE



A Christmas gift to save lives

15 December 2009. Local St John Ambulance volunteers will receive a life-saving Automated External Defibrillator (AED) this week to help them during the busy holiday season.

The AED will be handed over by the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FAHCSIA) on Wednesday 16 December at the Gosford Training Branch of St John.

Major General Warren Glenny (Rtd), Commissioner of St John (NSW), said the local St John volunteers were an integral part of the Gosford community and responsible for more than 2,000 hours of volunteer service each year.

“They give up their time and expertise – these 14 volunteers who make up Peninsula Division treat over 300 casualties at local events each year”, he said.

“St John (NSW) also supports public events, conducts volunteer training courses, assists the Department of Health in schools as part of the immunisation program and assists children with their literacy in our primary schools. These services are essential for the welfare of local communities”, he said.

The purchase of the AED was made possible by a \$3,000 grant from the FAHCSIA’s 2009 Volunteer Grants scheme. The \$21-million grant scheme is currently being rolled out to over 6,700 community organisations around Australia.

Terry Mitchell, Peninsula Division’s Superintendent, was thrilled to receive the defibrillator which he says will help save lives.

“If someone receives defibrillation within the first three minutes of having a sudden cardiac arrest, their chance of survival improves dramatically,” said Mr Mitchell.

“Anything can happen at public events where there are large gatherings. Having this life-saving equipment means we can improve the chances of survival.”

St John volunteers are highly trained with nationally recognised qualifications. Local volunteers provide first aid in the Peninsula and surrounding areas, attending events such as Australia Day, Rugby Union, Motorbike race days, concerts and other sporting events.

To know more about St John (NSW) or to become a volunteer in the Peninsula area, please call 0404 440 808, visit www.stjohnnsw.com.au.

ENDS

Notes to editor:

All media is invited to attend the ceremony.

Handover of the equipment will take place on Wednesday 16 December from 11am – 12 noon at Suite 2, 86-88 Mann St, Gosford.

For further information and please contact:

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