



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**20 January 2009**

# This Australia Day, say G'day to a St John volunteer

"When you see a St John Ambulance volunteer on the streets this Australia Day, stop and say G'day", suggests Sean Gavin, CEO of St John (NSW).

Mr Gavin is encouraging the public to say hello to St John volunteers who give up their time to provide first aid at events.

Over 30 St John Ambulance volunteers will be there at Australia Day celebrations this Monday 26 January, to cover areas such as Hyde Park, The Rocks, Darling Harbour, Botanic Gardens, Wollongong and Parramatta as people celebrate on the streets.

"Australia Day is about celebrating what is great, and one of the greatest things our organisation has is our volunteers. They are the backbone of St John and we value the extraordinary work they do every day of the week", Mr Gavin said.

On average, St John volunteers provide almost two days of voluntary service per month, many of those on weekends.

"I work full time and volunteer when I have time, which is often on weekends. I do it because I love the fact that I am supporting my local community", says Didier Moutia, a St John volunteer.

St John first aid volunteers are on duty at large community events including Big Day Out, New Year's Eve celebrations and the Royal Easter Show. They are also at local sporting, school and community events.

In addition to providing first aid services, St John also has Community Care programs where volunteers either provide assistance to the NSW Department of Health with their immunisation program, or Early Literacy programs, designed to help children learn to read in schools.

To know more about St John (NSW) or to become a volunteer, please visit [www.stjohnnsw.com.au](http://www.stjohnnsw.com.au) or call 1300 360 455.

**ENDS**

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