



MEDIA RELEASE

From bandages to awards

2 October 2009. They give up their spare time to provide first aid at community and sporting events, but Saturday 10 October, St John Ambulance volunteers will be handling awards instead of bandages.

In a ceremony to be held at Sydney University, St John (NSW) will award over 150 volunteers for their long term commitment to providing the highest quality voluntary first aid services to the community.

Sean Gavin, CEO of St John (NSW), said the volunteers give up their time willingly and regularly to provide a service they believe in.

“For over 125 years, our St John volunteers have quietly yet effectively sat on the sidelines of many community events such as Big Day Out, New Year’s Eve celebrations and the City to Surf. Always there, and ready to assist anyone affected by injury or illness.

“Other St John volunteers assist children with reading and writing, and still others assist high school children through the Immunisation Program.

“It’s an honour to award them”, Mr Gavin said.

Members of the community will also be awarded for providing outstanding first aid in emergencies.

St John (NSW) has trained many hundreds of thousands of people in first aid. In many cases, this training has resulted in ordinary people having the courage, confidence and skills to manage an emergency situation, and in so doing, saving lives.

In 2008, when St John Ambulance celebrated its 125 years of service in Australia, over 3,500 volunteers provided more than 450,000 hours of voluntary service across the state in the areas of first aid, early literacy, immunisation and ophthalmic care.

To know more about St John or to become a volunteer visit www.stjohnnsw.com.au or call 1300 360 455.

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