



MEDIA RELEASE

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RE: **Potts Point resident welcomes Governor-General to open new St John headquarters**

Potts Point residents The Hon Peter Collins, wife Jennine and daughter Tara welcomed the Governor-General Ms Quentin Bryce AC DStJ to the opening of St John (NSW) Burwood Headquarters in a ceremony on Monday 24 May.

The opening marked the start of a new chapter for St John Ambulance Australia (NSW) as the organisation continues to evolve to meet the needs of the community.

Mr Collins, who is the Chairman of St John in NSW, said the new building will enable to St John to continue to grow.

“After a search that lasted 12 months, we are very pleased to have found this site. With the help of the Federal Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) grant we were able to purchase the building.

“It fulfils all of our requirements; it is three times the size of our old home in Surry Hills, so will not only accommodate all our members from three different sites, but will also give us room to grow” Mr Collins says.

Over the past 126 years, St John has grown from strength to strength maintaining a very clear purpose: to bring first aid to the community.

Today, St John is the largest provider of first aid services in Australia. In 2009, St John trained 79,000 people in first aid in NSW alone. St John (NSW) First Aid Services volunteers treated more than 30,000 casualties, logged over 483,000 hours of voluntary first aid and attended 5,852 events and emergencies.

After residing in Surry Hills for 32 years, St John (NSW) outgrew its building and has taken the opportunity to consolidate offices from Surry Hills, Smithfield, Marrickville, Rydalmere under one roof.

The interior of the building has been designed to embrace the energy of St John. It is contemporary, fresh and vibrant which reflects an organisation made up of a large number of young people.

Mr. Collins believes the youth of St John pave a bright future for the organisation.

“People are often surprised to find out that 49% of our volunteers and staff are under 25 years old. It demonstrates that we are an organisation people of all ages see value in, and want to be involved with,” he says.

Located within walking distance of one of the city's busiest suburban railway stations, the new headquarters is easily accessible by road and public transport from most parts of Sydney. Burwood is convenient for customers and St John members.

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Notes to editor:

Photos are available upon request. Please contact Gui Feijo at 0410 220 872 or gui_feijo@stjohnnsw.com.au if you require more information or photos.