

## SNAKE BITES

### MANAGING A SNAKE BITE

**1) Check for signs of life:**

- if casualty is unconscious, follow DRABCD (Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing, CPR, Defibrillation).

**2) Calm casualty.**

**3) Apply pressure immobilisation bandage:**

- apply a firm roller bandage starting just above the fingers or toes and moving up the limb as far as can be reached
- the bandage needs to be very firm.

**4) Immobilise casualty:**

- apply a splint to immobilise the bitten limb
- check circulation in fingers or toes
- ensure casualty doesn't move.

**5) Call 000 for an ambulance.**

#### SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- puncture marks
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea
- headache
- double or blurred vision
- breathing difficulties
- drowsiness, giddiness
- pain or tightness in chest or abdomen
- respiratory weakness or arrest.

#### WARNING

**Do not** wash venom off the skin as retained venom will assist identification.

**Do not** cut bitten area or try to suck venom out of the wound.

**Do not** use a constrictive bandage (i.e. arterial tourniquet).

**Do not** try and catch the snake.

Carry the **Bites and Stings** first aid kit with you when camping or bushwalking. Call St John on 1300 360 455 for further information about the full range of first aid kits.