

# Media Release

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## ST JOHN AMBULANCE CELEBRATES 65<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Darwin, NT

To celebrate the organisation's 65th anniversary, St John Ambulance cadet and adult members took part in a church service and a march on Sunday, before gathering for a morning tea at the lawns of Parliament House.

St John Ambulance NT CEO Judith Barker said the day was a significant milestone in the organisation's long-standing and proud history in the Northern Territory.

"St John Ambulance NT has been serving the community for many years, attending over 52,000 incidents last year alone and transporting over 38,000 patients."

Officially registered in Darwin 65 years ago, St John celebrates its anniversary on June 24 – international St John Day.

From humble beginnings with the first ambulance vehicle – an ex-army 1942 Bedford truck, commonly known as blitz-wagon – obtained in 1955, St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory now employs almost 300 paid staff including over 100 paramedics.

St John NT is also the largest volunteer organisation in the Territory with over 500 volunteers Territory-wide, who dedicate their time to supporting their community through first aid at public events.

Thanks to their strong commitment to ensuring the safety of the community these volunteers devoted over 43,000 hours last year and attended over 900 community events across the Territory.

The organisation shares its first aid knowledge through public education and training, ensuring that people have the knowledge and confidence to provide first aid to those in need.

St John Ambulance NT's dedicated team of first aid trainers have trained over 36,000 community members within the Territory, and in a bid to make first aid accessible to all Territorians, St John educators also provide free first aid training to school students across the NT.

Committed to the development of young people in the Northern Territory, St John Cadet Divisions in the Darwin and Katherine region and in Central Australia open career pathways and provide stepping stones to young Territorians, playing a significant role in youth development in the NT.

Patron of St John Ambulance, Craig O'Halloran, said he was pleased to be able to join the 65th anniversary celebrations "to honour the work that the organisation and its people undertake each day".

"St John Ambulance has a long and proud history not only in the Northern Territory but across the world," he said.

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