

Media Release

For immediate release



Another attack on Paramedics in Alice Springs

Alice Springs, Northern Territory

While attacks on Paramedics are becoming more prevalent around the country, St John Ambulance NT has been victim to two vicious attacks on our staff in the past week alone.

Last night, paramedics in Alice Springs were treating a patient in the rear of the ambulance when a rock was thrown at the rear window of the vehicle by a bystander. The bystander hit the side of the ambulance and then proceeded to throw a rock at the rear window, penetrating the glass. Thankfully neither of the Paramedics or our patient were injured from the shattered glass.

Sadly these alcohol and drug related incidents are becoming more frequent, with our staff being attacked during the course of their daily duty. Paramedics are there to assist the community in their time of need and these repeated senseless attacks are inexcusable. St John does not accept this behaviour and neither should the Territory Community.

The welfare of our staff is paramount. The compassion our paramedics display on a daily basis in delivering a quality service to the local community is outstanding. The courage they display under very difficult and trying circumstances, often without concern for their own safety should not be underestimated.

Acting Alice Springs Area Manager, Julie Wickham said “We offer support and training to our staff but this is not enough to prevent unprovoked attacks. Our staff are our most important asset and we are willing to undertake any community engagement process necessary to protect and support them”.

CEO Ross Coburn stated “the violent behaviour we have experienced towards our staff in recent times is simply not acceptable and we will do whatever we can at a local level to engage the community in an effort to minimise and stamp out such intolerable behaviour”.

The ambulance has sustained around \$2,000 worth of damage and will be off the road until early next week.

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