

**Ambulance
+ more**

First Aid for all Territorians



9th November 2017

Media Invitation

St John Ambulance Launches Critical Response Unit

9am, Monday 13th November at Casuarina Ambulance Centre.

St John Ambulance Paramedics respond to 130 medical emergencies across the Northern Territory every day.

Paramedics have extensive tertiary qualifications and specialist training to provide lifesaving emergency medical care. If a patient is critically unwell suffering serious illness or injury, an Intensive Care Paramedic can be responded to provide advanced medical care.

Intensive Care Paramedics are highly experienced clinicians with additional education and advanced medical and specialist skills to treat critically ill patients with life threatening conditions. They make complex medical assessments and use a vast range of special equipment and medications. In the paramedic field, they are regarded internationally as being the 'best of the best'.

On Monday the 13th November 2017, St John Ambulance is excited to launch the trial of a new **Intensive Care Paramedic Critical Response Unit (ICP CRU)**. The ICP CRU is a new initiative, complementing St Johns existing ambulance resource and focusing on rapid response, clinical assessment and advanced medical care. Staffed by a St John Ambulance Intensive Care Paramedic, the ICP CRU will initially commence operating 24hrs a day 7 days a week in Darwin.

"This is an exciting development for the Territory and a commitment by St John Ambulance in the provision of enhanced services. Our Intensive Care paramedics have years of critical care, aero-medical and medical retrieval training. They are highly dedicated, skilled and have saved many lives throughout the Territory." said Matthew Eastham, Director of Ambulance Services.

"Over the last two weeks our Intensive Care Paramedics have participated in an intense clinical development workshop – ensuring their specialised skills remain cutting edge. We had a range of experts conduct presentations and practical scenarios in clinical leadership, advanced airway management, cardiac arrest, renal care and paediatric life support." Matthew said.

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The Critical Response Unit will operate from the Casuarina Ambulance Station as of the 13th November and shortly after in Alice Springs. It will undergo a 6 month clinical trial period and then be analysed to assess the impact of this new service.

“This is a great advancement in pre-hospital emergency care in the Territory for patients who are critically unwell and need specialist high level care prior to arriving at hospital.” said Matthew.



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