

**\*\*\*Media Invitation\*\*\*** For immediate release

**7 December 2015**

## **SAVING STELLA**

To the outside world, beautiful Stella Condie looks like any other happy and carefree 9 year old girl, but sadly on the inside, Stella has a ticking timebomb, which could end her young life at any time. Diagnosed with a rare heart condition earlier this year, Stella lives daily with the disease Doctors are yet to confirm the name of. Sadly for Stella, she has a healthy heart, but it is the cartilage surrounding her heart that contains a virus which can cause her to go into Sudden Cardiac Arrest without warning.

Last month, the family, in a desperate bid to save their daughter, set up a fundraising Facebook page called Stella's Defibrillator, to raise the vital funds to enable them to purchase an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to have at home in case Stella has a cardiac arrest, buying Stella the precious time needed until the Paramedics arrive. The local Community was extremely supportive of the cause, with vital funds raised within weeks of the Facebook page going live.

St John Ambulance was made aware of Stella's plight and knew immediately we could assist the family. St John provided a HS1 defibrillation unit, 2 sets of defib pads, a first aid kit and two CPR courses for her parents, in the hope that this will make a difference. With the funds that were donated through the Facebook page, the family have purchased an additional defibrillator for Stella's tennis coach Sam Giess, to have on hand at the Palmerston Tennis Club when Stella has her tennis lessons, a passion she refuses to give up. "We are delighted that we can help out a family in their time of need and by providing these two units and relevant training to those close to Stella, we trust if the occasion arises she is given every chance of survival" stated St John CEO Ross Coburn.

Please assist us in raising community awareness for this beautiful girl by giving her the chance of a normal life. Her family would like to make as many people aware of Stella's case in the hope that should she go into Cardiac Arrest in public, someone will be able to assist. "We desperately want our girl to lead as normal a life as possible, but if by making her condition public knowledge saves her life, then that is the best outcome we can hope for", stated Bridgett Condie, Stella's Mum.

Sadly for Stella, she is a very reluctant star and only wants to be a normal child and not be treated any differently. She does not want to be singled out for her illness, but her parents are positive that by making the public aware of her condition, that it may save her life.

**Media are invited to attend the handover of the Automated External Defibrillator units to Stella's family.**

**Location: St John Ambulance NT retail outlet at 416 Stuart Highway, Winnellie.**

**Date: Tuesday 8 December.**

**Time: 10.30am**

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