

*****Media Invitation*****

23rd October 2017

50,000 Students Trained for FREE

Thursday 26th October 2017, marks the occasion that 50,000 school aged children will have received FREE first aid training as part of the St John Ambulance NT First Aid in Schools Program.

The program first began in 2010 as an initiative of St John NT and quickly gained national interest. Since then, over 1,000,000 children have been trained in life-saving first aid skills by St John Ambulance in every state and Territory across Australia in 2017.

Director of Volunteer Services Mark Ferguson said "St John Ambulance in the Northern Territory has a goal to make first aid a part of every Territorians life and I can't think of a better way to achieve this goal than by starting off with our youngest Territorians. Our program provides students with the confidence to act in an emergency through practical actions and easy to follow step-by-step plans".

First aid topics covered by the program are specifically tailored to the age of the students and can also be customised to meet community requirements. The teaching topics for pre-school children range from *what does a Paramedic look like?* to *who can help in an emergency?* Year 7 & 8 students receive training ranging from *how to manage an unconscious patient* to *performing vital CPR and defibrillation (AED) in a cardiac arrest situation.*

CEO Ross Coburn commented "Our community education officers across the Northern Territory deliver informative, enjoyable first aid sessions at no cost to schools, students or Communities. Funding for the program is provided by grants, the donations we receive from generous Territorians and from the proceeds of our Commercial programs that provide First Aid training, First Aid kit sales and kit restocking."

Principal of Anula Primary School Kerry Hudson said the St John Ambulance First Aid program was incorporated into Anula Primary School's Health and PE program. "Our students have the opportunity to learn valuable, lifelong skills that could save a life in an emergency," she said. "The Anula students have responded enthusiastically to the program which has been delivered to all 21 classes including two Preschool classes."

We are excited to announce the training of our fifty thousandth student through the St John NT First Aid in Schools program will take place at Anula Primary School in Darwin on 26th October 2017. To mark this special occasion a presentation to the school and the students involved in the training will take place at the Anula Primary School from 10am.

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