

28 August 2017

******Media Release******

**St John Ambulance
Launches its new fleet of Ambulances**

At 10:00am on the 29th August 2017, St John Ambulance Australia NT will launch a fleet of five (5) new Ambulances with a short ceremony at the Casuarina Ambulance Station.

Matthew Eastham, Director of Ambulances Services believes that this is a very exciting time for the organisation and represents a significant step forward on many fronts relating to quality, safety and providing our people with a contemporary work platform. There are also many benefits for our patients. To put this into perspective and in relation to technology our vehicles will have some of the newest equipment and latest technology available.

Each of the 5 Mercedes Benz Sprinters have undergone a significant modification process, at the St John Ambulance Workshop. Here they were fitted with the latest equipment including integrated touch screen technology, dual stretcher capabilities, seating positions and improved equipment access and storage. Each Ambulance is fitted with Ferno Solbian solar panels which supply a constant charge to vehicle batteries and equipment, reducing the need for on board 240V shore-power. The most exciting introduction to the ambulances is Ferno's cutting edge no lift to load, powered stretcher, the Ferno iN/X, with a lift load of up to 318kg. A special feature of these stretchers is the integrated lighting system on the side rails which allows paramedics to see and be seen in dark and in hazardous conditions. St John Ambulance has worked closely with Ferno for technical assistance, service and product training ensuring the new ambulance fleet is current and remains future proofed to provide better paramedic and patient safety and also enhance the paramedic work environment.

Long lasting, ergonomically designed NEANN paramedic kits have been supplied by RAPP which uses revolutionary developed material EnvironFrei with a coated internal fabric to minimise cross contamination risks when kits are in use. These kits were recently displayed at the Council of Ambulance Authorities conference held in Adelaide, as cutting edge paramedic kits purpose made for our NT Ambulances. On road the Ambulances will have higher visibility to motorists with the addition of extra reflective stickering and even the most distract of motorists will hear and see the Ambulances coming with the addition of the new Banshee sirens. These sirens are the only ones currently available on the market to have a dual tone capability, low frequency alert tone and air horn. The low frequency tones help to gain the attention of the most distracted driver and those drivers in modern, highly insulated vehicles.

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Amtek, a company who specialises in special vehicle builds in Australia have been instrumental with assisting St John Ambulance in the design process of these new fleet. Where ever possible St John Ambulance sourced a range of local input, from powdercoating, window tinting, auto electrical services and even the internal upholstery of the equipment pockets. Steel fabrication of the internal “grab racks” which hold the paramedic first aid kits where custom designed and refined to fit the new fleet by Metalmaster Fabrication.

Many of these key features are a first for the Ambulance industry in Australia and represent the future of Ambulance services for St John Ambulance NT.

After the ceremony invited guest will be give the opportunity to take a closer look at the new ambulances.

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