

**\*\*\*Media Release\*\*\***

For immediate release  
31 May 2018

## **Save a Life Award Presentation**

### **Save a Life Award**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017, as her mother Rebecca lay still with a broken back from a serious vehicle collision, 12 year old Tahlia Drahm-Coggan, pulled her 10 month old baby sister Aiva from the smoking vehicle and proceeded to find adult help to assist Avia.

Avia had gone into cardiac arrest from the injuries she sustained in the collision and despite suffering from a broken nose and sprained ankle herself, Tahlia bravely removed Avia from the car, checked her breathing and realised she was non-responsive and in need of urgent medical help.

Tahlia had previously received life-saving first aid training as a St John Ambulance Cadet and was also taught First Aid skills through the St John Ambulance First Aid in Schools program. Tahlia knew she needed to act quickly and enlisted the help of a bystander who gave Avia CPR. Paramedics who attended the scene of the accident believed that Thalia's quick thinking and actions saved her little sister's life.

Tahlia's Mother Rebecca was flown to Adelaide for treatment and spent 3 weeks in a traction device to treat her broken back. Avia spent 7 days in Royal Darwin Hospital ICU with a traumatic brain injury and Tahlia spent every minute she could at the hospital comforting her sister, feeding her, reading books to her and playing with her.

"St John Ambulance NT is proud to award Tahlia Drahm-Coggan with the St John Save a Life Award" stated St John Ambulance CEO Judith Barker. "Tahlia conducted her own triage of the situation, assessing the person most in need as being her little sister, recognising that the aid required was beyond her knowledge and training, but retained the presence of mind to seek further assistance. Fortunately it is a rare thing for one to need to take immediate responsive action to save a sibling, so we at St John Ambulance are proud to have played a part in this amazing rescue, through delivery of our St John Ambulance Cadet and First Aid in Schools programs. Congratulations Tahlia, were it not for your intelligence and determination this situation could have had a more tragic outcome".

The Save a Life Award is only awarded to a person who contributes, through the application of first aid skills and knowledge, to saving the life of another person. St John Ambulance Australia (NT) Inc. congratulates Tahlia on receiving her award.

Tahlia will be at Casuarina Ambulance Station at 10am, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May, with her award and is available for photographs and interview.

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