



MEDIA RELEASE

VOLUNTEERS GO EXTRA MILE FOR EKKA

In what is St John Ambulance Queensland's biggest first aid duty of the year, Volunteers from all over South East Queensland will once again ensure that visitors to the Royal Queensland Show have a safe and enjoyable Ekka experience.

St John Ambulance's uniformed volunteers will provide 24 hour on-site First Aid Service during the show but will also be in attendance during the set up and close down of the show. In all over 110 volunteers will provide nearly 4,700 hours of service this year to Royal Queensland Show patrons, staff, farm hands and show operators.

The majority of St John members are on duty when the Ekka is open to the public; operating out of 3 First Aid Centres located strategically around the grounds. Over night a small crew operate from the main First Aid Centre located under the J.D. McDonald Stand.

"Without the commitment of our Volunteers we would not be able to provide such extensive first aid coverage at the Ekka every year" said State Commissioner, Noel Gillard. "It truly demonstrates that the Volunteer Ethos is still alive and well, especially considering that many of our Members have taken annual leave from their paid careers to be here."

One such member is Maleny resident Faye Gledhill, who works fulltime as a Personal Assistant but gives many hours of her free time to volunteering as a Sergeant for St John Ambulance (Qld) Brisbane Central No.1 Division. Faye has treated many casualties at the show but remembers one incident where a patient was kicked in the throat by her horse. A huge bruise resulted and the lady was in tears and was surrounded by panicked observers. Faye was able to reassure the lady by commenting that it was the largest love bite she had ever seen. The patient was soon joking about what she would do to her horse for inflicting such a serious injury on her.

Last year St John Ambulance (Qld) members provided reassurance and first aid treatment to over 1,200 casualties and it is likely that similar numbers of casualties will be treated this year. Dehydration, migraines, blisters, cold and flu, scrapes, bruises, minor eye irritations, splinters and nausea were some of the common complaints.

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Last year, St John Ambulance Queensland's 1600 volunteers gave up 130,000 hours of voluntary service and treated 4,600 casualties whilst providing first aid services at various civil, cultural and sporting events throughout Australia.

St John Ambulance Australia is a self-funded charity dedicated to helping people in sickness, distress, suffering or danger.

St John Ambulance Australia (Qld) is Proudly Supported by NRMA Insurance.

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