



WIN FOR LEARNER DRIVER FIRST AID TRAINING
ST JOHN AMBULANCE AUSTRALIA RECEIVES AUSTRALIAN ROAD SAFETY AWARD

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- **St John Ambulance Australia has been announced as a Winner at the 13th Annual Road Safety Awards.**
- **5,508 Australians have signed up to the St John’s Learner Driver First Aid online training since its inception.**
- **Free eLearning presents an adaptable way to reach more people with First Aid knowledge and skills that could save a life.**

St John Ambulance Australia was announced as the winner of the Workplace Road Safety Award at the 13th Annual Road Safety Awards, held at Parliament House in Canberra on Tuesday 25th June 2024.

The win is the second industry-recognised award that speaks to the excellence of St John’s eLearning program for *Driver First Aid*. This is a free, interactive online training course that can be accessed by anyone, simply by visiting driverfirstaid.org.au. At the website, participants can find information about the importance of roadside first aid, before signing up to an accessible e-learning course that takes only 40 minutes to complete, and is offered at no cost to the public.

Participants learn common first aid interventions such as, how and when to call for help, putting a person in the recovery position, checking and supporting an airway, stopping a bleed, treating broken bones, performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and administering an Automated External Defibrillator, if one is available. 5,508 Australians have signed up to St John’s Learner Driver First Aid online training since its inception.

St John Ambulance Australia CEO, Brendan Maher, is proud to see Driver First Aid getting acknowledged. “We have a tremendous amount of interest and good will towards Driver First Aid from governments, academics, industry and the community alike, so it’s great to see it formally acknowledged with another award,” he said.

“The program works on the premise that in First Aid, any action is better than no action, as an early intervention. We want everyday Australians to feel empowered to act, and to feel confident that they are following the right steps,” said Mr Maher.

This is especially important in situations of crisis, such as on the roadside after a crash, when stress and hazards can be particularly heightened.

“Knowing basic first aid can help anyone in responding to another person who is ill or injured, in the vital moments after an incident, whilst waiting for emergency services. We want as many people as possible to be First Aid ready,” said Mr Maher.

The St John developed eLearning package was launched in November 2022, in response to Australia's high national road tolls and injury rates. Whilst the program is primarily geared towards young people and those who are new behind the wheel, the skills and knowledge are applicable to all road users, and are also skills for life.

The initiative has more recently been adapted to suit other road users, such as Truck Drivers, who have their own online version (truckiefirstaid.org.au). Over time St John Ambulance Australia hopes to create tailored versions for new audiences and scenarios. With the valued support of funders, this would be possible.

At the Australian Road Safety Awards at Parliament House, Senator the Hon Carol Brown, Assistant Minister for Infrastructure & Transport, presented the recipients with their awards. These awards acknowledge the achievements of leading road safety stakeholders, and recognise their commitment to improving road safety outcomes.

National Learning Resource Development Manager for St John Ambulance Australia, Carol Anderson was present at Parliament House, alongside her colleague Charlie Bartak, to accept St John Ambulance Australia's award.

Ms Anderson said, "We were so honoured to accept this award on behalf of Team St John. It is great recognition for a lot of thought, planning and evidence-based program development that has occurred over the past two and half years."

"We are now seeing this program really taking off in terms of use, and the feedback has been phenomenally positive. While we know we are onto a winner in terms of the training itself, we are always seeking to improve our engagement, to get more people trained in vital First Aid skills."

"The feedback of our audiences has been important. It's helped shape the next updates to the program, which we are excited to be announcing soon," said Ms Anderson.

Both Ms Anderson and Ms Bartak represent a team of staff including clinicians, education experts, and information technology professionals at St John Ambulance Australia, who work to build agile, best practice First Aid training programs. Nationally, St John's various training and education initiatives reach over 747,000 Australians each year in their communities, schools, workplaces and homes.

"Finding new ways to break down core First Aid skills and knowledge, without compromising on quality is important. We hope that courses like our Driver First Aid will provide a taster for First Aid, that will not only build immediate self-agency, but also inspire further training and skills development," said Ms Anderson.

St John nationally, continues to work on targeted First Aid and road safety advocacy, including various conversations and partnerships with local, state, and Australian governments, and peak bodies.

Further exciting updates to the Driver First Aid program are pending, given a recently completed academic evaluation, and user-led enhancements to the eLearning platform - informed by young people, for young people. St John Ambulance Australia looks forward to making further announcements soon.

Sign up to Driver First Aid training for free! Anyone can access the free, online training by going to driverfirstaid.org.au. Once the training is completed, a digital certificate of completion can be downloaded.

For further, fully accredited First Aid Training you can sign-up for other courses in your state/territory by visiting www.stjohn.org.au/training.

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