



St John Ambulance Australia Ltd  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**THE CORONATION AND THE AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION THROUGH ST JOHN AMBULANCE AUSTRALIA  
4 MAY 2023**

Many members, volunteers and staff of St John Ambulance Australia will be watching on Saturday 6 May, as His Majesty King Charles III is crowned during the Coronation. In attendance will be The Lord Prior of the Order of St John, Professor Mark Compton AM GCStJ - an Australian and a St John Volunteer of 49 years - amongst the invited congregation of more than 2,200 people and he will participate in the Orders of Chivalry procession as part of the Coronation Service.

This historic event is of great interest on the world stage, but also holds significance to the Australian Priory of the Order of St John. St John is a Crown order of chivalry working to deliver first aid and medical responses to community healthcare needs. This is most recognisable in Australia through the work of St John Ambulance – a leading provider of first aid training, emergency services and health care.

St John Ambulance Australia is part of the international Order of St John which operates in 44 countries and serves communities across Australia, through services delivered by over 17,000 volunteers and staff.

Prof. Compton exemplifies the spirit of volunteering and membership that has been the backbone of St John services in Australia. Starting as a Cadet in his youth, he has almost five decades of experience with St John, and now seeks to inspire a new generation of young people to join the ranks, whilst encouraging everyone to gain first aid skills.

*“I’m greatly honoured to be attending the Coronation as Lord Prior of the Order of St John, and to utilise this occasion to highlight the importance of community volunteering and our role as a global organisation dedicated to relieving injury, sickness and suffering, and preserving life,”* says Prof. Compton.

Mark Compton’s rise through the ranks of St John has seen him volunteer at a uniformed level, provide leadership of the Australian Priory, and more recently steer the direction of St John International. He is mentoring the next generation of leaders - including improving engagement with women, young people and minority audiences to encourage diversity. Compton is also not averse to rolling-up his sleeves - actively volunteering in his local Southern Highlands community as a volunteer firefighter with the NSW Rural Fire Service, including with recent response efforts during the catastrophic bushfires and the pandemic.

St John Ambulance is a highly recognisable and trusted presence at all types of community events - providing services to keep attendees safe. The Coronation is yet another opportunity to demonstrate skills and commitment in this space. *St John volunteers will be on the ground in Central London and other locations providing first aid and medical assistance to those who might require it during the Coronation events.*

*“It’s always great to see our highly trained and dedicated volunteers and staff in action, whether it’s when I am home in Australia, or in another one of our jurisdictions, such as here in England for this auspicious occasion. We hope that significant events like the Coronation also remind us of our contribution to a bigger, global impact.”*

In a practical sense, the formalities of The Order of St John are not as evident to the public in Australia, who benefit from services that the charity provides every single day.

*“First and foremost, we aim to build capacity in every home, school, workplace and community, for everyday Australians to provide first aid interventions. We do this through training and resources that provide the skills, knowledge and confidence to administer simple interventions, that can also be lifesaving, including CPR,”* says St John Ambulance Australia CEO, Brendan Maher.

*“It’s great to see our Lord Prior flying the flag for both Australia and St John on an international stage, as we mark this extraordinary and important historical event with the Coronation and His Majesty King Charles III who is Sovereign Head of the Order St John.”*

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### **About St John Ambulance Australia**

Through its extensive Australian networks, St John Ambulance reaches a combined community audience of around 500,000 people per annum. St John organisations across every state and territory of Australia deliver a range of services to meet local community needs. This includes (but is not limited to): event health services; first aid training for school children; public access to defibrillators; patient transport; emergency services; disaster response and recovery; ophthalmic care (including to remote, rural and Indigenous communities); and various targeted health and wellbeing initiatives that boost community resilience. St John Ambulance Australia also supplies centralised first aid supplies including first aid kits, defibrillators and PPE, as part of a social enterprise.