



15 June 2009

Ambulance appoints first full time chaplain

Ambulance is pleased to announce that Reverend Raymond Green has been appointed as the first permanent staff Chaplain. Prior to his appointed on staff, Rev Green has been a uniformed volunteer chaplain for over ten years.

Rev Green graduated from St.Andrews College at Sydney University and the Melbourne College of Divinity and was Ordained to the Christian Ministry in 1973.

Whilst training for Ministry and following Ordination, Raymond undertook further tertiary training in the area of Bereavement Counselling, Suicide Awareness and Intervention. He is involved in Crisis Counselling with the Emergency Services support network and a member of the Senior Chaplains Conference.

In 1998 Rev Green initiated a voluntary Chaplaincy program for the Ambulance Service of NSW and in 2004 was appointed the senior chaplain. When he first commenced at ambulance, there was only three voluntary Chaplains in the Ambulance, today there are 23.

In his current position, Rev Green is responsible for lecturing Trainee paramedics and Patient Transport Officers in stress management, burn out, suicide awareness and bereavement counselling.

Rev Green and his team of chaplains work with Paramedic peer support officers to help paramedics with coping mechanisms after a traumatic event. They often touch base with paramedic crews after a distressing incident.

As well as paramedics, chaplains deal with all ambulance staff and their families, victims or trauma, survivors and their families.

He was first on the scene at the Waterfall Rail disaster spending the day looking after victims and attending to ambulance staff.

As part of his on staff role, Rev Green will be responsible for increasing the chaplain team from 22 to 30. Currently, Ambulance has representatives of the Uniting, Anglican, Catholic, Church of Christ, Jewish, Baptist, Assemblies of God and the Salvation Army churches.

"I enjoy working in Ambulance being out there in the mud, blood and tears. The great thing about chaplaincy is working on the edge in a multi-faith community with people of faith and no faith."

Rev Green is on call 24/7 and holds state wide responsibility as the senior chaplain in a co-ordinating role and engaging new volunteer chaplains.