



Friday 1 September 2017

## media release



### **Over 60 Paramedics, Triple Zero (000) Call Takers and Community Members Honoured With Awards on NSW Ambulance Appreciation Day**

NSW Ambulance Commissioner Dominic Morgan and Health Minister Brad Hazzard will today join local community members at an event to give thanks and appreciation for the care and consideration shown by the state's hard working paramedics, Triple Zero (000) call takers, dispatchers, qualified volunteers, doctors, nurses, corporate and non-operational staff.

Attending the annual NSW Ambulance Appreciation Day event at Naremburn NSW Ambulance Station, the Chief Executive said a simple 'Thank you' can mean the world, letting our staff know that their care, compassion and life-saving efforts haven't gone unnoticed.

"Our staff don't ever expect or ask for thanks, but when it comes - particularly on days like today - it is a real boost to them. Often they don't know what happens to a patient after they've treated and safely transferred their care to the hands of the doctors and nurses at an ED so hearing messages of support from past patients is humbling."

"Today we are encouraging people to head to the NSW Ambulance Facebook page, to Twitter or Instagram and leave a message for our staff using the hashtag ThanksNSWA" Mr Morgan said.

In the past year alone, NSW Ambulance has answered, on average, a Triple Zero (000) call for help every 28 seconds, assisting more than 1.15 million people. Often before paramedics arrive or a Triple Zero (000) call is made, care starts at the hands of community members.

More than 60 of those special life-savers and survivors were commended, receiving awards in gratitude for their extraordinary efforts and bravery when faced with a medical emergency.

Among them are four-year-old Georgia Ritter, who walked more than 1 kilometre to call Triple Zero (000) and help her mum, Shoalhaven surfer Tony Hartono, who risked his life to rescue a patient submersed underwater, five-year-old Chanelle Bouras, who helped paramedics find her unconscious mum, and 14-year-old Ben Napier who commenced CPR on his mum until paramedics arrived, saving her life. The annual Minister's Bursary for Excellence, presented by Mr Hazzard, will also be announced today at the event.

"If I could, I would personally thank every member of the community who have provided invaluable support to a family member, a work colleague, a teammate or a complete stranger," Mr Morgan said

"By administering correct medical procedures and treatments, chances of survival may increase considerably. In many cases without your early intervention, bravery and quick thinking, someone would not be alive today." Since 2008, there has been an annual Thank a Paramedic Day which has now been succeeded by the NSW Ambulance Appreciation Day to pay tribute to the work of all NSW Ambulance staff in the delivery of care to patients across the state.

"Our staff do an extraordinary job, often in extraordinary circumstances and under immense pressure. Their efforts should be recognised on NSW Ambulance Appreciation Day, and every day."

#### **Media are invited to attend the NSW Ambulance Appreciation Day Event:**

What: NSW Ambulance Appreciation Day  
When: Friday 1 September 2017  
Time: 10-11.30am  
Where: Naremburn Ambulance Station, 14 – 16 Slade Street, Naremburn.



## media release



### **NSW AMBULANCE APPRECIATION DAY HONOURS & AWARDS BACKGROUND**

The below recipients were presented with awards today and are available to speak with media at the Naremburn Appreciation Day Event:

#### **Georgia Ritter – Bundook Commendation for Courage - Community Ribbon Drop**

On 2 May 2017, four-year-old Georgia Witter was travelling in an ATV with her mother on a private road on their property. Georgia's mother asked her to stand out of the vehicle while she turned it around. Her mother lost control of the ATV and rolled 100 metres down a steep embankment. Georgia witnessed the accident and went to her mother's aid. (see separate release)

#### **Chanelle Bouras – Carlingford Star Award + Bearamedic**

On 4 January 2017, five-year-old Chanelle called Triple Zero (000) when her mother had a decreased level of consciousness. Nominee also met the ambulance and directed them to the patient. She instructed the responding crew to the location of clothes, formula and nappies for her baby sister.

#### **Karen de Jonge, Emily Suthers, Jake Whalan, Barry White – Glenmore Park Cardiac Arrest Saviour Award**

#### **Adriaan de Jonge – Glenmore Park Cardiac Arrest Survivor Award**

On 14 January 2016, Karen de Jonge found her husband unconscious in her home. She quickly called out for help and commenced CPR. Emily Suthers, Jake Whalan and neighbour Barry White all took turns assisting with CPR until paramedics arrived.

#### **Christopher (CJ) Matthews – Sutherland Star Award + Bearamedic**

On 15 October 2015, 14-year-old CJ was at home with his pregnant mother when he heard her call out for assistance. CJ called triple zero and was able to relay information to the call taker that included a deterioration of the patient's condition from time of initial call. CJ was also able to provide responding paramedics with his mother's medical history and personal details. This aided paramedics and ensured timely treatment and transport of the patient.



## media release

---

**Robert Cheval, Nick Chen – Sydney CBD**  
**Cardiac Arrest Saviour Award**

**Garry Dickerson – Sydney CBD**  
**Cardiac Arrest Survivor Award**

On 19 July 2017, nominee found a 47 year old male collapsed and unresponsive. Nominee provided CPR prior to NSW Ambulance arrival. Nominee's actions resulted in the survival and successful resuscitation of the patient.

---

**Ben Napier - Pymble**  
**Cardiac Arrest Saviour Award**

**Trish Napier**  
**Cardiac Arrest Survivor Award**

On 24 November 2016, 66-year-old patient was witnessed to collapse unresponsive. The patient's 14 year old son dialled Triple Zero (000) and commenced CPR until paramedics arrived. Patient survived the arrest and has made a full recovery.

---

**Tony Hartono – Shoalhaven**  
**Citation for Courage**

On 2 December 2016, nominee witnessed a swimmer get into difficulty whilst boogie boarding at Shoalhaven Heads Beach. Nominee entered the water and retrieved the patient who was having extended periods of submersion. Treating paramedics noted the patient to be cyanosed and it was evident that the patient had ingested sea water. Without the efforts of the nominee the patient would have likely drowned.

---

**Paul Goodwin – Nowra**  
**Cardiac Arrest Saviour**

**Phillip East**  
**Cardiac Arrest Survivor**

On 3 September 2016, nominee responded to reports of his neighbour suffering a cardiac arrest. Paul performed CPR until the arrival of Paramedics. Paul's actions and effective CPR resulted in a successful resuscitation of the patient.