



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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THANK A PARAMEDIC DAY

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today praised the state's paramedics and encouraged the community to support their life-saving work during Thank a Paramedic Day.

Mrs Skinner will join paramedics, their loved ones and former patients to celebrate the annual event at Parramatta.

"Thank a Paramedic Day is an opportunity for us to acknowledge the vital role NSW Ambulance plays in the wider health system while also showing our appreciation for the incredible work paramedics do," Mrs Skinner said.

"Across the state today many patients will be reunited with a paramedic who has assisted in saving their life. It really is a special occasion.

"Our state's paramedics face challenges, trauma and tragedy every day yet consistently deliver exceptional care with kindness, integrity and compassion.

"This is the reason why paramedics are considered 'the most trusted profession'.

"There are few people who can say 'I saved a life at work today'. Paramedics can and do and for that I say thank you."

Mrs Skinner said in the last year alone, NSW Ambulance responded to more than 1.2 million incidents across the state – an average of 3340 incidents per day, or one response every 26 seconds.

"To ensure paramedics can continue to provide best, timely patient care well into the future, last December I launched the *Reform Plan for NSW Ambulance*," Mrs Skinner said.

"The Plan identified a number of areas for improvement and under the leadership of NSW Ambulance Chief Executive Ray Creen I'm pleased to say many of the reforms have already been implemented.

"The NSW Government's Aeromedical Reform Plan has also been rolled out, giving NSW a helicopter retrieval network that will get patients to hospital care faster than ever before and, for the first time in NSW, there will be a doctor on every flight."

A special link has been set up on the NSW Ambulance website for the public to show their appreciation through a few words, a story or experience.

To pass on your thanks, please visit the NSW Ambulance website:
<http://www.ambulance.nsw.gov.au>