



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW HONOUR FOR EXCELLENCE ON THANK A PARAMEDIC DAY

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today marked the seventh Thank a Paramedic Day with the announcement of an annual bursary for excellence recognising the incredible work of NSW Ambulance paramedics.

Mrs Skinner said the \$5,000 bursary has been established in appreciation of the commitment shown by paramedics right across the state and will fund further training and education for the recipient.

“The state’s paramedics undertake life-changing and life-saving work every day in what can be extraordinary circumstances,” Mrs Skinner said.

“I’m always astounded by the incredible work undertaken by our paramedics and I established the Minister’s Bursary for Excellence to honour the commitment, compassion and courage paramedics show in treating patients across the state.”

The inaugural Minister’s Bursary for Excellence was today awarded to Annette Tierney, an intensive care paramedic at Wauchope on the mid north coast of NSW.

“The decision was a difficult one, with superb paramedics recommended to me from every corner of the state, but Annette shone as an exemplary member of the NSW Ambulance team,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Annette has been with NSW Ambulance for more than 15 years, delivering compassionate care to patients and being a strong support to her colleagues. She has shown great leadership and tremendous clinical skills.

“Annette tells me she will use the bursary to fund further education with a university degree in aged care and community health – this is wonderful news.”

Twenty-six paramedics were also given service awards for outstanding commitment to their duties at an official Thank a Paramedic Day ceremony today.

Mrs Skinner said in 2013/14, NSW Ambulance provided 1,234,843 emergency and non-emergency responses - an average of 3383 responses per day or a call every 26 seconds.

“Paramedics consistently deliver excellent clinical care with integrity and compassion, despite facing the challenge of trauma and tragedy on the frontline every day.

“Thank a Paramedic Day is a wonderful opportunity to recognise the incredible work of the state’s paramedics and a timely reminder of the challenges they face.

“I call on the community to join me in thanking paramedics today, and every day, for the invaluable contribution they make to our lives. When we need them they are there and for that I can only say thank you.

“The NSW Liberals & Nationals Government continues to grow the NSW Ambulance workforce with an additional 205 paramedics now on-road since the election.

“We’ve also boosted the NSW Ambulance budget by \$30 million this year to a record \$752 million to ensure paramedics can continue to deliver their first-class care to patients.”

NSW Ambulance Chief Executive Commissioner Ray Creen said people join NSW Ambulance to serve the community and to make a real difference to people’s lives.

“It’s not a job for everyone but that’s what makes a paramedic such a special and valuable part of our society,” Mr Creen said.

“Personally I’d like to thank all staff who work for NSW Ambulance. It is only due to their combined commitment and dedication to patient care that our organisation is able to undertake the life-saving work we do.”

The community is encouraged to leave a message for paramedics on the NSW Ambulance Facebook, Twitter or Instagram pages using the #ThankaNSWparamedic hashtag.

- **Twitter:** @NSWAmbulance <https://twitter.com/NSWAmbulance>
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- **Instagram:** @NSWAmbulance