



Jillian Skinner
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

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EXTRAORDINARY EVERYDAY WORK CELEBRATED ON THANK A PARAMEDIC DAY

A Hunter paramedic's bravery and leadership during the region's April storms has been rewarded with the Minister's Bursary for Excellence on Thank a Paramedic Day.

While celebrating with paramedics at Campbelltown Ambulance Station today, Health Minister Jillian Skinner presented her annual award for excellence to Dungog Ambulance Station Officer Matthew Liebrechts.

She was joined by Member for Camden Chris Patterson and NSW Ambulance Acting Chief Executive David Dutton as she thanked the state's paramedics for the incredible work they do every day.

Mrs Skinner - who created the \$5,000 prize last year to fund further education and training of the recipient - said Matthew was nominated for his dedication to his colleagues and community.

"Twelve exceptional paramedics were nominated but Matthew really stood out as an extremely worthy recipient," Mrs Skinner said.

"He has been with NSW Ambulance for six years and became station officer this year. As Forward Commander during the devastating Dungog floods that sadly took three lives, he showed true bravery and supported his community and team through what was a very difficult period.

"Today we officially thank all paramedics and Triple Zero (000) call takers who are there in our hour of need, showing great composure and professionalism."

Mr Dutton said paramedics are humble heroes who save lives and provide comfort and support to the community.

"We are grateful every day for the extraordinary work of all NSW Ambulance staff and Thank a Paramedic Day gives the community a chance to show how grateful they are for the wonderful work paramedics accomplish," Mr Dutton said.

Mrs Skinner also presented community members with awards to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts they took to save the lives of loved ones or complete strangers.

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