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National news from the Australian Office of St John Ambulance Australia

BEST PRACTICE | SHARED SERVICES

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PROFESSOR MARK COMPTON RECOGNISED WITH THE ORDER OF ST JOHN'S HIGHEST HONOUR

St John Ambulance Australia is delighted to announce that Professor Mark Compton AM has been honoured by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as a Bailiff Grand Cross (GCStJ)—the highest grade in the Order of St John.

Professor Compton is Chancellor of the Order of St John in Australia, and Chairman of the National Board of Directors of St John Ambulance Australia, and is only the 10th Australian St John member to be appointed to this grade in the 135 year history of St John Ambulance in Australia—one of only a small group in the world.

Sir Malcolm Ross GCVO OBE GCStJ, Lord Prior and Chairman of St John International, made the announcement at the recent St John National Member Convention Gala Dinner in Hobart.

Professor Compton said, 'I am incredibly honoured and humbled by this honour. It came as a great surprise. I am proud to be a member of St John, and have been so for the 43 years I have served so far. Voluntary service is so important to weaving the strong fabric of the Australian community and it is something that is very much in my blood. Together with my wonderful St John colleagues, I hope that every day we help make Australia a stronger, safer and more resilient community in which to live'.

Mr Robert Hunt, CEO of St John Ambulance Australia said, 'I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this promotion in the Order. Mark's dedication to St John, spanning more than four decades, and his drive, leadership and commitment to ensuring that St John can meet its Australian goal of making first aid a part of everybody's life, is second to none'.

'Mark is an inspiration to us all. He still volunteers for St John in an operational role at major events, mentors developing leaders, and



contributes to international strategy development for St John worldwide. Mark's strength, personality and reputation help to make St John the first aid training organisation of choice in Australia, and ensures an unparalleled level of service and care to the community'.

In addition to his volunteer role with St John, Professor Compton is currently Chief Executive of St Luke's Care; Chairman of Sonic Healthcare Limited; Non-executive Director on the board of Macquarie University Hospital, and is an active volunteer firefighter with the NSW Rural Fire Service at the Burrawang Rural Fire Brigade, located in the Southern Highlands of NSW.

Over four generations of Mark's family have volunteered for St John, including his two sons, Michael and Daniel, and his wife, Dr Elizabeth Ellis.

Professor Compton was awarded the Centenary Medal of the Commonwealth of Australia for services to the community; appointed a Knight in the Order of St John (St John Ambulance) in 2004, and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in January 2010 for services to health, hospitals, medical research and St John Ambulance.

Congratulations Mark, from your St John family.