



Media Release

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RAV WINS PRESTIGIOUS SAFE COMMUNITY AWARD

Rural Ambulance Victoria has been officially recognised for its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program.

CEO Doug Kimberley said RAV was the Victorian winner of the Volunteer section of the 2005 Australian Safer Community Awards, sponsored by the Australian and Victorian Governments, with the awards being presented by the Emergency Services Commissioner for Victoria, Bruce Esplin.

“The Australian Safer Communities Awards are organised by Emergency Management Australia and recognise best practice and innovation by organisations and individuals that helps to build safer communities across Australia,” Mr Kimberley said.

“The CERT program represents best practice in pre-hospital care for remote communities in that the model is very flexible and allows for a collaborative partnership between RAV and the community to provide emergency care in a timely manner ensuring better patient outcomes.”

Mr Kimberley said CERT members operate under strict medically approved clinical protocols approved by the ambulance service’s Medical Standards Committee and are authorised to provide the following emergency response care until an ambulance arrives:

- Basic Life Support (inc. oxygen and the use of an Automatic External Defibrillator)
- Basic and advanced first aid
- Spinal and fracture management
- Pain relief (inhaled analgesia)
- Administration of emergency medication for asthma and cardiac chest pain.

“The effective and efficient implementation of this program has seen 20 new CERT’s established since September 2003 making a total of 22 teams. The CERT volunteer workforce now numbers 350 committed people.”

Mr Kimberley said the Award recognised the commitment of local communities in embracing the CERT Program; the commitment of the State Government in funding the program and the dedication of RAV Paramedics in providing training for the CERT volunteers.

“By winning a State Award, Rural Ambulance Victoria is now a finalist for a National Award. The winners and highly commended recipients will be announced by the Attorney-General at a presentation function at Parliament House Canberra on Thursday 1 December. “

Media information: Doug Kimberley
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CAPTION: (l to r) Emergency Services Commissioner Bruce Esplin, Geoff Harvey, RAV Asst Manager Community & Volunteer Development; RAV CEO Doug Kimberley; CERT representatives Anne Donaldson and Tanya Sullivan with the 2005 Australian Safer Community Award.