

Media Release

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Paraburdoo ambulance service is launched

The St John Western Australia ambulance service in Paraburdoo will start responding to emergency ambulance calls from Monday, October 6.

The service which has been financially supported by Rio Tinto will be headed up by St John Community paramedic Melinda Parker, with support from 23 community volunteers.

Melinda arrived in Paraburdoo in February and since then she has been recruiting and training ambulance volunteers.

St John North West Regional Manager Wil White said Melinda had achieved great results in a short space of time.

"She has excelled in rallying the local community to support this new service and we think it is going to be of great benefit to Paraburdoo," he said.

Up until now Rio Tinto has supplied the town and mining operations with an ambulance service.

The partnership will address the current lack of ambulance support in the Paraburdoo community beyond the Paraburdoo mining operations.

Mr White said over the last few months, the Paraburdoo St John team and Paraburdoo mining operations have been working together to ensure a smooth transition.

Mr White said people should be mindful of having insurance cover for ambulance transport. He said Paraburdoo residents could buy ambulance cover by calling (08) 9334 1284.

Membership application forms can also be obtained from the Paraburdoo post office and then mailed with payment to the Tom Price sub centre. People could also visit the Tom Price sub centre to buy an ambulance membership.

"This is a really affordable option and we would urge people to take this up if they don't have private health cover," Mr White said.

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