

Dear Chair and Committee Members

On 20th November 2018 at the Diesel Gym in Joondalup, I was clinically dead for 4 minutes.

Officers of St John Ambulance from the Joondalup station arrived at the gym within a few minutes of being called, applied a defibrillator to my chest and saved my life.

Apparently, the survival rate for cardiac arrests in the case of people under 50 is 7%. At almost 63 years of age at the time and thanks to the prompt actions of St John and its attending officers, I am a very fortunate man to be still alive!

St John officers have also conveyed me to Joondalup Health Campus on two other occasions when called by my wife after I suffered epileptic seizures while asleep.

As a much younger man I served in the Western Australia Police Force from 1979-1987. As a uniformed constable I had frequent occasions to see St John officers in action at accidents and other incidents requiring their presence.

On each occasion, they displayed quick thinking, devotion to duty, excellent knowledge of their techniques and, of great benefit to all, coolness, courage and a great sense of humour which often served to relieve the tension in situations where there was a great deal of stress and, in some cases, danger from intoxicated or drugged patients.

I support the retention of St John to provide ambulance services to Western Australian Health. Its ethos, culture and esprit de corps makes its presence a valuable part of the experience for those who work with them as well as those who need assistance from this great organisation.