

## BACKGROUND

April 2008

### NSW HEALTH ACTIVITIES

The NSW government, through NSW Health and its area health services, is providing health services for participants at WYD08, in order to reduce the impact of such a large event on normal arrangements of the health system.

Existing health service arrangements for the general public will continue as usual during WYD08.

#### Health services at event sites

NSW Health will operate small emergency medical units at Barangaroo, Randwick and Centennial Parklands. These units will be staffed by doctors, nurses and other health officers as needed and will provide limited emergency care on-site. This means most participants will rejoin their group immediately after treatment and continue enjoying the event. Having services on-site also reduces the number of ambulance transports to hospital and the impact on local emergency departments.

The ambulance service of NSW will have comprehensive coverage of all major WYD08 venues. Paramedics can treat patients on-site and transfer any very serious patients directly to hospital. The Ambulance Service of NSW has additional information about its services.

The ambulance service of NSW has a robust plan to ensure continuity of emergency services throughout this time.

Extensive supplementary first-aid will be supplied by a third-party provider at numerous posts throughout Sydney's Central Business District and event venues.

Paramedics or first-aiders will be able to transfer anyone requiring extended care to an on-site Unit.

#### Health services at temporary accommodation venues

Information on accessing local primary care will be available through volunteers and noticeboards at school and church hall temporary accommodation venues.

#### Population Health

Members of the NSW Health Centre for Health Protection will be monitoring global international health in the weeks leading up to the start of WYD08. Links with health departments across Australia will also be used to monitor any relevant incidents identified during Days in the Dioceses.



It has been strongly recommended to WYD08 participants that they are fully vaccinated against easily transmissible diseases such as influenza, measles, chicken pox and others.

Public health officers will be visiting major WYD08 venues during the event. Data on the types of illness and injuries being treated will be collected from event venues, hospitals, general practitioners and other sources and analysed to understand the source or cause of any related incidents. Additionally rostered public health response teams will be able to quickly investigate any incident of population health interest.

### **Mental Health**

All usual mental health services will be available to the community of NSW during WYD08. Mental health services will also provide technical and clinical management advice on mental health issues which may arise during WYD08 events.

Any WYD08 participants looking for information on accessing mental health resources can phone the Mental Health Help Line (1800 469 525) free of charge.

### **Health Communications**

Current and accurate health and safety information will be available through the World Youth Day Coordination Authority website, [www.wydca.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wydca.nsw.gov.au)

Health communications will also work with its partners to prepare relevant information to be placed at temporary accommodation sites.

The homepages for NSW Health and the ambulance service of NSW will also contain information on any major incidents affecting the broader community.

### **St John Ambulance**

St John (NSW) has been contracted by WYD08 to provide first aid services at a number of venues and locations identified in the World Youth Day 2008 (WYD08) official program.

St John will carry out 'first response treatment' of patients; and work together with Ambulance Service of NSW and NSW Health to ensure strong links are maintained between this front line treatment, NSW Health intervention or hospital transports.

In addition to providing first aid to pilgrims attending WYD events, St John volunteers will have an Advanced Casualty Management Centre (ACMC) located at some of the major venues. These Centres will be staffed by volunteer medical officers, nurses, doctors and paramedics who are also members of St John. Our ACMCs work closely with our First Aid volunteers, Ambulance Service of NSW and NSW Health to provide extended care to those who become unwell or injured at an event.





It is anticipated that during the WYD period; about 500 St John First Aid volunteers will provide up to 20,000 hours of service to the community.

To find out more about the different services of St John visit [www.stjohnnsw.com.au](http://www.stjohnnsw.com.au)

