

PowerNet and St John renew partnership, focus on safeguarding mental health and wellbeing for the region



In August 2014, St John and PowerNet joined forces with a shared goal of combining our resources to help improve the health and safety outcomes of PowerNet customers in the Southland, Queenstown-Lakes and West Otago communities.

This week PowerNet and St John signed a new agreement to continue the community partnership for a further three years from August.

PowerNet chief executive Jason Franklin says, "Ensuring the mental wellbeing for people and communities is an important focus for us so, when we were offered the opportunity to expand our relationship to become the principal sponsor in the region for St John's Mental Health First Aid Training, we jumped at it."

St John's Mental Health First Aid training course teaches participants the skills and knowledge to recognise and respond to someone experiencing mental health concerns and has been very popular since its introduction in 2018.

PowerNet is also helping roll out St John's pilot Schools Wellbeing Programme for Years 7 and 8 at the end of Term 3. It focuses on building resilience and coping skills for children and will be delivered into schools where PowerNet customers are based as well as continuing to partner for the delivery of the ASB St John in Schools Programme.

Helping to sustainably support the region, PowerNet will also sponsor four EV charging stations around Southland for an upcoming St John trial of electric vehicle health shuttles.

Six years on, the partnership is well on track to achieve both parties expected goals. More than 1,000 people have been trained in first aid, 42,122 students have participated in the ASB St John in Schools Programme and 17 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) have been donated around the Southern communities. PowerNet also won the community initiative award at the 2016 Deloitte Energy Excellence Awards recognising their support of St John with their entry "Saving Lives Together."

"It's clear that the relationship is making a real difference to the region with one of the donated AEDs, sited at Bill Richardson Transport World in Invercargill, helped save Janine Pine's life after she suffered a cardiac arrest during a wedding at the venue." says St John South Island Fundraising Manager Debbie Pipson.

"PowerNet has been an amazing supporter of St John, together we aim to continually give individuals and communities the confidence to help save lives. We're excited for the next three years and what we will achieve together." she says.

If you would like to know more about the partnership or would like to attend one of the free courses please email southisland.fundraising@stjohn.org.nz

PowerNet staff attending an ASB St John in Schools programme at Windsor North School, The Southland Disability Enterprise team attending a PowerNet sponsored First Aid Course and an AED donated to the McCallum Group.

