

VOLUNTEER'S VIEW

Volunteer medicos take care of drivers

By JO JOHNSON

INJURED drivers involved in high-speed crashes and rollover collisions can rest assured they will be in good hands at Mount Panorama this weekend.

Team Medical Australia is a not-for-profit volunteer organisation that provides medical services to motor sport competitors and officials.

"We take care of the drivers, the pit crew and the officials," medical centre manager Karina Leviston said.

"St John staff look after the crowd."

"We have cars positioned around the track so when there's an accident, we have a quick response. The drivers of our medical cars are mostly ex-race-drivers so they know how to handle a car at high speeds."

Karina said the team has had a few cases already and it was important for competitors to be treated immediately.

"We've been busy so far. The safety equipment worn by the drivers usually does its job. But we need to bring them in to assess their injuries. Often they just need to sit and calm down and let the adrenaline slow."

"There's always a doctor in the centre. The centre is equipped with advanced emergency medical

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"Depending on how serious the patient is, they will be transferred to Orange or choppered to Westmead in Sydney. Or, if they're well enough, the aim is to get them back on the track."

The medical team is made up of 23 people, including paramedics, doctors, emergency nurses, medical drivers and administrative support. Dr Judith Braga is the Chief Medical Officer at the centre, while the president of Team Medical Australia, Dr Carl Le, is the medical delegate to V8 Supercars Australia.

"We get here at 6.30am and don't leave until the same time at night. So it's a 12-hour day. Sometimes we have quiet days. Sometimes it's busy."

As well as providing support at Mount Panorama for the Supercheap Bathurst 1000, the team travel to Phillip Island, Sandown, Townsville and will this year be part of the Sydney Telstra 500 at Homebush.



MOTOMEDICS: Medical centre manager Karina Leviston is c support for race competitors and officials at Mount Panorama