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POWERCOR LINEWORKERS AWARDED FOR HEROIC RESCUE ACTIONS IN ST. ALBANS

A crew from Powercor's Faults and Maintenance Overhead team have saved the life of a man who suffered a heart attack at the wheel of his car on 1 July.

The crew were carrying out training in St Albans when one member spotted a car slowly crossing the road and hitting a fence. After making their work site safe they rushed to the aid of a man who was slumped across the wheel of his car

Their fast response and excellent CPR skills have enabled the man to make a full recovery. The crew comprising - Paul Debruyne, Rob Deluise, Mahar Elbodon, Theo Petropoulos and contractor Brian Baptist from Energy Services have been nominated by Ambulance Victoria for a Community Hero Award.

"We knocked on the window to see if he was ok, there was no response and the guy was going blue. The car doors were locked so worked together to break into the car and get him out," Mr Elbodon said.

The crew pulled the man from his car and laid him on the ground to check his pulse. The crew members initiated CPR and called an ambulance. They also ensured the area was safe and managed local traffic until the ambulance arrived.

The men continued CPR after paramedics arrived while a defibrillator was being set up. Fortunately they were able to revive the man and get him to hospital.

"Luckily we were there at the right time. It happened in a quiet street in St Albans and he might not have made it if he had to wait another 10-15 minutes," Mr Debruyne said.

"It's wonderful to get the recognition of an Ambulance Victoria nomination – all we really did is what you'd hope someone would do for you in the same situation," he said.

Medical professionals who attended the scene commented that it was obvious the Powercor crew members were highly skilled had worked together for a long time. During the crisis the crew members covered key emergency roles automatically and shared important responsibilities equally.

Mr Mujdat Gunsan, the patient, praised the Powercor crew for their efforts.

"If not for them I wouldn't be standing here today. All I can say is how grateful I am for what they did," Mr Gunsan said.

The crew involved met with Mr Gunsan earlier this week and were pleased to see he had fully recovered from the accident.

Media enquiries: Powercor Australia's 24-hour media service on 9683 4342

MEDIA RELEASE