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First aid in good health

Alex Tilbury

FROM humble beginnings, Queensland First Aid has grown over 35 years to become one of the state's most recognised providers of first aid training.

For entrepreneur Garry Draper, this wasn't enough. He saw a business that could build on years of credibility to bring an entire industry into the next generation.

"I could see that Queensland First Aid had the ability to adapt to the current market's needs," he said.

"We could offer all the

credibility of the traditional providers with the ability to move with the times, in line with an ever changing market."

This meant adapting the course to provide one of the quickest, yet comprehensive, nationally accredited one-day first aid training courses.

With 11 locations across Queensland as well as off-site training for groups, Mr Draper reckons his business model is changing the face of first aid training to suit the needs of the community and business.

"We make the whole process easier for the cli-

ent from the point of booking their course through to a concise, streamlined, one-day course, with no pre-course homework requirement, and provide participants certificates on the same day."

Mr Draper has invested in Queensland First Aid's information technology systems, upgrading its software and website to simplify online booking.

The growth of the business is based on the belief that everyone has the capacity to save a life in an emergency if they are properly trained.

"Having basic first aid training is vital to every one of us," Mr Draper said.

"If you are present in an emergency and there is no doctor or ambulance on the scene, it's important to have the skills to be able to take charge and help."

Jan Lobwein, a recent graduate of a Queensland First Aid course with more than a decade of experience, said it was by far the best course she had ever participated in.

She said she'd love to see more and more Queenslanders take such courses.



ENERGY TRANSFUSION: Queensland First Aid CEO Gary Draper

Picture: Tim Marsden