

STAR OF COURAGE (SC)

Dr Martha Molyneaux KNOX-HALY, New South Wales

On the morning of 18 August 2015, Dr Martha Knox-Haly went to the assistance of a female colleague who was being assaulted at Carramar in New South Wales.

At 8am Dr Knox-Haly was walking through the car park of her office in Carramar when she became concerned for a colleague, believing that a road rage incident was occurring. Her colleague's car had been parked-in by another vehicle and her colleague was seated in her vehicle with the driver's door open and a man from the second vehicle was on his knees and looked like he was sobbing into his hands. Her colleague looked very frightened and concerned.

She spoke to her colleague to check on her welfare. When the man stated he was her husband, her colleague gave a warning gesture with her hand which Dr Knox-Haly thought meant that she wanted her to leave. As she began to walk to her office she heard her colleague scream. The man had dragged her colleague from the car and was holding her from behind. Her colleague then slumped to ground after the man stabbed her several times with a knife.

Dr Knox-Haly yelled to the offender to get away from her colleague and moved towards him. As she pushed him away from her colleague he wounded Dr Knox-Haly in the head with the knife.

Despite the presence of the armed offender, and with blood coming from her head wound, she knelt down to assist her colleague. The offender got into his vehicle and drove towards the women at speed, forcing Dr Knox-Haly to move. He then hit the injured woman with the vehicle. Dr Knox-Haly immediately went back to assist her colleague, but the offender again drove into the injured woman before fleeing the scene.

Dr Knox-Haly attempted to call triple 0 but was unable to use her phone due to her head injury. When other shocked colleagues arrived she yelled for them to call an ambulance. Dr Knox-Haly sustained several injuries and was taken to hospital with her injured colleague. Despite their injuries both women survived the incident.

By her actions, Dr Knox-Haly displayed conspicuous courage.