

January 2012

Backgrounder

Re:

Life saving machines donated to the heart of the community in Hyden and Kondinin

- The St John Ambulance sub-centre in Hyden/ Kondinin has purchased eight Automated External Defibrillators to place in and around public areas in the Hyden and Kondinin communities. Four defibrillators will be placed in various locations in Hyden, and four will be located in various areas in Kondinin.
- The move for the local sub-centre to generously donate these life saving machines comes after several people in the community have suffered a sudden cardiac arrest, raising awareness of the need to have life saving equipment such as AEDs located in common public areas.
- This move has been praised by Kondinin CEO, Peter Webster who suffered a sudden cardiac arrest at a Perth Shopping Centre last year and a nearby Automated External Defibrillator was used to help save his life.
- This investment at the heart of the community is empowering people living in and around Hyden and Kondinin as it means that that in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest, you can do something and by responding with an AED, you could save someone's life.
- St John Ambulance WA is encouraging the community to attend the free presentation & public demonstration at the Hyden IGA at 10.00 am & the Kondinin Community Resource Centre at 2.00pm on Wednesday 8th February 2012. At the demonstration, SJAWA will be talking about symptoms and signs of a sudden cardiac arrest and showing the public how to respond using an AED (which is very easy to use even if you haven't got any knowledge of First Aid Training).

Background on sudden cardiac arrest

- In the event of a sudden cardiac arrest time is of the essence. For every minute that the victim is not defibrillated they lose a 10% chance of survival - after 10 minutes the chances of recovery are virtually nil.



- In Australia 25,000 to 30,000 people a year die from a sudden cardiac arrest. To help reduce that number we need to have AED's in the community in common areas such as offices, leisure centres, businesses etc organisations etc.

Examples - The community of Beverley has 8 AED's placed around their town, Augusta has 8, Quairading has 3 and Karratha has one in their local shopping centre.

Connection to First Responder System

- As part of this generous donation to the community, all AEDs will be registered under the St John Ambulance WA First Responder Program.
- This means that if a triple zero call is received by SJAWA indicating that a patient is suffering a cardiac arrest near one of the eight locations registered across Hyden and Kondinin, key words will trigger an alert to show that a First Responder is nearby (a First Responder is a person located nearby who has had prior training in using the AED).
- An ambulance is then dispatched and the nearby First Responder is contacted prompting them to attend the incident. First Responders provide vital first aid and use an Automated External Defibrillator if required while the ambulance is on its way.
- There is no cost to a Community or Organisation to be a part of the First Responder System, their own response processes are not interfered with in any way. Rather, being part of the System enhances the processes you have in place.
- The First Responder System is now operating in more than 180 locations across Western Australia.

Interviews and photo opportunities available.

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