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## **Cardiac Arrest Registry: ARC NSW Position Paper Summary**

Each year, approximately 3800 people in New South Wales experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA), and the vast majority (around 90%) subsequently die.

This is close to ten times the annual number of NSW road fatalities (RTA, 2010), yet very little is known about the causes, the management and the long term outcomes for OHCA in Australia. Poor survival rate globally has been static for three decades.

Evaluation of the contribution of risk factors and interventions is essential if patient outcomes are to improve.

This has been hindered in NSW by the lack of data on structure, process and outcome of care.

Most people do not receive assistance from bystanders in terms of CPR, defibrillation, or other timely interventions that are known to help and promote survival.

Without a reliable method of collecting all necessary information in a uniform format, the effectiveness of different interventions cannot be compared.

Improvements in health system quality may only occur if there is precise measurement of the baseline to improve from.

In terms of cardiac arrest in NSW, improvements in quality are currently impossible because, unlike other states and territories of Australia, we have no organised record of incidence, treatment or outcome in the form of a Cardiac Arrest Registry (CAR).

Participation in a CAR would enable comparison of patient populations, interventions, and outcomes, and potentially identify opportunities both to improve quality of care and to ascertain whether resuscitation is provided according to evidence-based guidelines.

### **ARC NSW proposes:**

- The urgent establishment of a NSW government-mandated cardiac arrest registry (CAR), designed and piloted by the ARC NSW in collaboration with relevant bodies.
- The CAR to collect data from all health system sources and organisations involved in the management of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

- The ARC NSW, in collaboration, should design and pilot a CAR collecting data on SCA in the NSW community allowing accurate epidemiology of the occurrence and demographics of SCA in NSW.
- The ARC NSW, in collaboration, should convene the membership of an expert steering group to develop the detail and implementation of the NSW CAR.
- The NSW Ministries of Health and Education, in collaboration, should perform a strategic planning exercise to implement the CAR and to collect accurate information.
- The NSW Ministries of Health and Education, in collaboration, should fund the CAR development and implementation for the benefit of the NSW community.

Full version of the position paper can be read here ([link to full version of the paper](#))