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Public Access Defibrillation: ARC NSW Position Paper Summary

Public access defibrillation (PAD) significantly improves survival after a cardiac arrest.

Certain types of cardiac arrest only respond effectively to defibrillation and, if this is delivered quickly, up to 75% of victims may survive.

Defibrillation is most effective when carried out within three minutes of a sudden cardiac arrest. Success declines at a rate of 10% with each minute delayed.

The median emergency-response time by ambulance services throughout Australia was between 7.5 minutes and 10 minutes.

We therefore need a Public Access Defibrillation program in NSW. Other states have begun this process, including the Victorian Government and Queensland Ambulance.

Only two percent of people who suffer sudden cardiac arrest in public are treated with a defibrillator by a bystander, due to liability concerns and lack of availability and training.

Widespread implementation of lay rescuer community AED programs can greatly improve the odds of survival, as has occurred in the US.

The ARC NSW proposes:

- The establishment of a collaborative state-wide public access defibrillation program for NSW.
- This should be piloted through ARC NSW as the centralising body for organisations involved in resuscitation in NSW.
- The NSW Ministry of Health to collaborate with ARC NSW and its member organisations in the planning and establishment of the PAD program.
- The NSW Ministry of Health to collaborate with ARC NSW and its member organisations in the establishment of a PAD registry, linked to a mapping geographic information system. An aim should be to make this available to 000 operators in the taking of emergency calls from bystanders, utilising appropriate technology to enable this initiative.
- The NSW Ministry of Health to consider funding for the PAD program and the related registry program.

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