



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 9 June 2006

St John and Rotaract Dubbo partner to save lives

Two life-saving defibrillator machines will be purchased by St John Ambulance Western Region (NSW) following a generous donation of \$9,000 from the Rotaract Club of Dubbo City Incorporated.

Every year, more than 30,000 Australians die from Sudden Cardiac Arrest. This defibrillator will help St John volunteers increase the chances of survival for cardiac arrest victims outside of hospital care.

St John (NSW) Chief Executive Officer, Rhonda Bignell said, "The current survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest outside a hospital is less than 5 per cent. In some cases, CPR alone is not enough. "

Defibrillation gives the heart a brief electric shock. This procedure converts a rapid, irregular heartbeat back into a normal heartbeat.

"Receiving defibrillation within the first three minutes of having sudden cardiac arrest improves chances of survival to well over 50 per cent." said Ms Bignell.

These defibrillators will go a long way in ensuring we continue to provide safe events and optimum casualty care during first aid duty. We are very grateful to Rotaract Dubbo and commend them on their fundraising efforts throughout the year; it's groups like these that assist in making our community safer." Rhonda Bignell, CEO, St John Ambulance NSW.

Rotaract Club President Colin Shanks said "This donation is a direct result of the generous support of our sponsors and the local community. It's a privilege to be able to make a difference to the local community and also regionally as well. But really, it is the St John volunteers, who spend the time training first aid and life saving skills, that deserve the recognition."

Rotaract is a international volunteer service organisation of 18-30 year olds. In Dubbo, three major community events are hosted by Rotaract each year with the proceeds donated to local charities.

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