

MEDIA RELEASE

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Manly Bowling Club to install life-saving defibrillator

Working in conjunction with St John Ambulance Australia, Manly Bowling Club will install a Commonwealth Government funded Automated External Defibrillator (AED), to be used in the unfortunate event of someone experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

The installation is part of **Project HeartStart Australia**, which aims to increase public access to defibrillation in the event of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). SCA is Australia's biggest killer, taking the lives of nearly 20,000 people every year. The most successful treatment for SCA is defibrillation within a few minutes of the event.

St John (NSW) will train staff at Manly Bowling Club to use the AED on Saturday 24 May at 8:30am. **Media are welcome to attend the training.**

Greg Silk, Manager of Manly Bowling Club Manager, comments:

"We are so pleased that by installing this defibrillator we are providing a safer environment for both our patrons and staff members."

The goal of **Project HeartStart Australia**, which was launched in 2004, is to have defibrillators available at more public events – particularly in regional areas where ambulances may not be as readily available. St John (NSW) is working with the Commonwealth Government, Department of Health and Ageing, to place more AEDs in the community.

According to St John (NSW), Chief Executive Officer, Sean Gavin, defibrillation is the best chance people have of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

"The current survival rate from SCA outside a hospital remains low. Unfortunately, CPR alone is often just not enough. If someone receives defibrillation within the first three minutes of having a sudden cardiac arrest, their chance of survival improves dramatically. It really does make a significant difference," said Mr Gavin.

"By installing the AEDs and providing training for our people, we are aiming to maximise our preparedness and response to SCA incidents for our patrons and employees. AEDs really are the safest and most effective way for people to save the lives from SCA. They are a critical step in the 'chain of survival' for an SCA victim."

To find out more about St John please visit www.stjohnnsw.com.au or call 1300 360 455.

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Media enquiries and further information:

Bethany Hoskin, Communications Coordinator, St John (NSW)

P: 02 9219 6856 E: bethany_hoskin@stjohnnsw.com.au