

## DEFIBRILLATION

There are a number of Automated External Defibrillators (AED) approved for use in Australia and whilst each one is slightly different, they all follow the same basic approach. Users should follow the visual and/or voice prompts of the particular AED being used.

### Decide to use an Automated External Defibrillator, if the casualty:

- is unresponsive (unconscious)
- is not breathing (or not breathing normally) and not moving.

If you are alone with the casualty, follow DRABCD Action plan, call 000 for an ambulance and collect the AED if available.

If two rescuers are present, one should go for help and collect the AED if available, whilst the other assesses the casualty and provides Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) until the AED arrives:

- press 'On' button (if relevant to model of defibrillator)
- establish casualty has no signs of life
- expose the casualty's chest
- place pads on casualty's chest (follow machine's instructions)
- Stop CPR
- ensure everyone is clear of casualty
- follow machine's voice prompts.

**If casualty responds to defibrillation—follow DRABCD. Do not remove defibrillation pads even if casualty is conscious.**

## WARNING

Do not operate a defibrillator in a moving vehicle or in the presence of flammable substances/air mixture.

Ensure that defibrillation is performed in a non-conductive surface.

Devices such as cellular phones and two-way radios should not be used within 2 meters of an AED due to radio frequency interference.



**St John Ambulance conducts defibrillation training in every state and territory. Call 1300 360 455 to book into a course.**

*If you are interested in purchasing an AED please contact St John on 1300 360 455. If you require assistance to implement an AED program into your organisation, please contact the National Project HeartStart Australia Program coordinator, Christine Barber on 02 6239 9202.*