

Joint Media Release

25 June 2020

St John partners with Port Hedland International Airport to bolster community resilience

St John WA is partnering with Port Hedland International Airport (PHIA) to provide publicly accessible defibrillators to priority locations in the Hedland community.

These defibrillators will be available 24 hours a day to the public and may be the difference between life and death in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest.

St John Hedland Station Manager, Shauna Quirk said partnerships like this one were vital in building community resilience.

The St John Community First Responder (CFR) program aims to get defibrillators to cardiac arrest victims in the vital minutes before an ambulance arrives “For every minute that that the person is not defibrillated they lose a 10 per cent chance of survival.” Shauna said.

“The best thing about these devices is they can be operated by anyone as the machine will provide instructions to the user.

PHIA General Manager Rod Evans said the airport has an established community sponsorship program, supporting airport partners and organisations in our local community.

“PHIA values our relationship with St John Hedland team and the vital services they deliver where we live and work. We appreciate their participation in our airport emergency exercises and their first aid supplies and servicing. PHIA has invested in roading, lighting and infrastructure improvements for ambulance access to the airfield.”

“PHIA has contributed \$15,000 towards a range of initiatives, including the new defibrillators, 75 volunteer-designed shirts for the ‘Green Dream Team’ ambulance volunteers and contribution towards a community BBQ trailer.”

“We have three units located on the airport site in the passenger terminal and heliport, and are delighted to fund six new public access defibrillators and eight cabinets to the Port and South Hedland communities as we know what an important role they can play when someone has a cardiac arrest,” he said.

Fact file:

- The new defibrillators will be located at:
 - Port Hedland Police Station
 - Port Hedland Dome Café
 - Port Hedland Yacht Club
 - South Hedland Police Station
 - South Hedland - The Homestead Centre Throssell Road
 - South Hedland Lotteries House

- Wanangkura Stadium
- Civic Centre
- There are currently more than 4,788 defibrillators registered to the St John Community First Responder (CFR) program.
- The program aims to get defibrillators to cardiac arrest victims in the vital minutes before an ambulance arrives.

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