



# Community Defibrillator Fund Project

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the purpose of this project?

The Tasmanian Government has committed to provide community organisations, individuals and not-for-profit organisations with Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) to help save lives.

### How many AEDs are available?

Ambulance Tasmania will oversee the project that will provide a total of 180 AEDs to the community during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 financial years.

### How can I get one?

You can apply online at [www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ambulance/community\\_defibrillators](http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/ambulance/community_defibrillators)

### Are there any conditions to getting an AED?

There are selection criteria which consider factors including the proposed location for the AED, how accessible it will be to the public, and whether it is registered as part of Ambulance Tasmania's Early Access to Defibrillation program. The applicant must also agree to maintain the AED which will include the cost of replacing the battery and pads when required.

### When will I know if I am successful in getting an AED?

Successful applicants will be advised starting in late 2018 and this will be finalised in early 2019.

### How much does it cost to replace the battery and pads for an AED?

The cost for these items is variable depending on the model, but is estimated to be approximately \$300-350 every 4 years for batteries, and \$95-110 every two years for pads

### Where do we have to put the AED on our premises?

Whilst all sites are different, as a rule the AED should be located in an accessible area.

### Will our premises have to be open 24/7 to allow access to the AED?

It is acknowledged that many organisations will be not able to facilitate 24/7 access. However, applicants should consider strategies for maximising community accessibility. Such strategies may be viewed favourably during the application assessment process.

## **How long will the AED last before it needs to be replaced?**

Manufacturers identify a date on which they no longer support an AED labelled “End of Life”. At this time consumables (batteries/pads) may be difficult to obtain. The “End of Life” date will vary depending on the AED model but should not occur for many years after purchase.

## **What about training to use it?**

E-training will be offered to the successful applicants through the Community Defibrillator Fund. However you do not need training to use the machine. You just have to turn it on and the machine will talk you through everything you need to do in simple steps – so have a go, you may just save a life.

## **Who might use an AED?**

The AED is designed to be used by anyone. A member of the public may arrive to collect it, or you may be contacted (depending on your availability) to take the AED to a cardiac arrest emergency.

## **Why do we need to register an AED?**

Registration of an AED means Ambulance Tasmania will know the location of your device and can notify the ‘AED owner’ of a cardiac arrest in their area if one occurs.

## **How will anyone know that my organisation has an AED?**

Once your machine is registered, the machine’s location will be shown on the AED Locator smartphone app and iOS, Android and Windows Mobile platforms. Ambulance Tasmania will have the location, so anyone making a 000 call can be advised if there is an AED nearby, or a person responding to an emergency can locate one through their phone or other device.

## **We already have an AED but we’re not sure if it’s registered. How do we check?**

Contact Ambulance Tasmania on [AED@ambulance.tas.gov.au](mailto:AED@ambulance.tas.gov.au) to enquire about the status of your AED.

## **Our organisation would like to have an AED but several members are concerned about using it in the wrong way and hurting someone. Is this possible?**

All AED use should be accompanied by a telephone call to 000. The 000 operator can help you with the use of the AED. The AED also talks you through the procedure. You cannot do any harm to a person by applying an AED.

## **Is there any significant risk to me legally being sued if I use the machine and the outcome is not successful?**

Not if you use the AED in good faith and without recklessness, in response to an emergency and without expecting any financial reward (Part 8A, Civil Liability Act 2002).