



MEDIA RELEASE

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PARTNERSHIP GOOD FOR THE HEART

Two new potentially life-saving Heartstart defibrillators have been installed in the Esperance town centre for use in emergencies, bringing the total number of publicly-accessible defibrillators in Esperance to 47.

The defibrillators were installed by the Shire of Esperance and donated by Southern Ports – Esperance with funds provided to St John Ambulance and the Shire under the organisation’s community sponsorship program.

The defibrillators, which are stored in hard cases, are located outside the Esperance Visitor Centre in the Museum Park Period Village and the Esperance Police Station, in Dempster Street. Both are registered with the St John Community First Response Program.

St John Ambulance WA First Responder Program Manager Sally Simmonds said the Automated External Defibrillators (AED) give victims of sudden cardiac arrest a much better chance of survival.

“The installation of these AEDs empowers people living in Esperance as in the event of a sudden cardiac arrest, they can use the defibrillator to potentially save someone’s life. The device is very easy to use even if you haven’t got any knowledge of first aid training,” Ms Simmonds said.

Ms Simmonds said the AED would be registered under the St John Community First Responder Program, which means local people on the ground can help save the lives of victims of sudden cardiac arrest in the vital minutes before the ambulance arrives.

“AEDs are increasingly common assets in our communities and if administered in the first few minutes after cardiac arrest, can absolutely be lifesaving,” Ms Simmonds said.

CEO Matthew Scott said, “This initiative is a great one to be a part of. I’d like to thank the Esperance Port for the donation and everyone involved in the installation so that we can provide this important community asset in the event of a life threatening incident.”

Southern Ports chief executive Nicolas Fertin said the organisation was proud to partner with the Shire and St John Ambulance.

“We take our responsibility to support the communities in which Southern Ports staff live and work seriously, and this is another way we can meet that goal.”

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Additional Facts:

- A defibrillator is a device which delivers a therapeutic dose of electrical energy to a person's heart when it has stopped pumping.
- There are more than 1,700 registered sites statewide and the program involves providing triple zero-callers with information about nearby registered defibrillators and facilitating access to the device.