

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs)

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) affects over 30,000 Australians every year without warning. It may happen at your school at any time. Rapid response with an AED is critical to patient survival.

A cardiac arrest occurs when the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. SCA is not a heart attack and can happen to anyone of any age or fitness level, posing an immediate threat to the person's life.

How would your school respond? Would your school be able to act quickly in the event of an SCA emergency?

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Action Plan

D

CHECK FOR DANGER

R

CHECK FOR RESPONSIVENESS

S

SEND FOR HELP – CALL 000

A

OPEN AIRWAY

B

CHECK BREATHING

C

START CPR – 30 compressions : 2 breaths

D

ATTACH DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) – follow prompts from AED

**Continue CPR until responsiveness or
normal breathing returns**

Source : Australian Resuscitation Council's Guide to Basic Life Support

Eloise Gannon
FOUNDATION

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What is an AED?

An AED (Automated External Deifibrillator) is used to treat a Sudden Cardiac Arrest. They are a portable and easy to operate medical device designed to analyse an unconscious victim's heart rhythm and deliver a shock if required.

An AED will NOT deliver a shock unless it detects a lethal shockable heart rhythm.

The AED will use voice commands and screen messages to guide an operator through the defibrillation process.



Should my school purchase an AED?

YES. A child or adult may have a SCA at any time while at school. SCA can be caused by drowning, electrocution, trauma such as a fall or knock to the head during sport or playtime, anaphylactic attack, arrhythmia or many other accidental or medical occurrences. In the event of an SCA, rapid response with an AED is critical. Every minute lost reduces the patients chance of survival by 10%.

Is specific training required for staff?

All schools offer CPR and AED training to staff members. An AED is a life-saving device that is designed to be used by anyone. Training is **not** essential, simply follow the voice prompts. In an SCA emergency, anyone **can** and **should** respond by accessing the school's AED immediately.

Can you harm someone using an AED?

NO. AEDs will only deliver a shock to a heart if it detects a lethal shockable rhythm.

Where can our school purchase and AED and how much do they cost?

Schools wishing to purchase and AED must ensure they consult and buy from a credible supplier. Suppliers such as : Qld Ambulance Service; St John Ambulance; Australian Red Cross and Defib For Life will all provide advice on the most suitable AED pack for your school.

Competitive pricing for packages including wall mounting, training, paediatric and adult pads, accessory kits, and AED location signs can be purchased for as little as \$2,500.

What maintenance is required for the AED?

The supplier will advise on the routine maintenance required for the specific model of AED purchased. Generally, life expectancy of batteries will vary between 2-7 years, the pads will need replacement following use, or every 2 years if unused.