

IMPLEMENTING A DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) PROGRAM

If you are **considering purchasing** an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for your premises and to enhance your first aid response, it is important that you consider the various elements to ensure a successful and responsive program.

Do you need an AED? Currently in Australia, AED's are not mandatory. This means that there are no laws that enforce you must have an AED on your premise. AEDs form part of the DRSABCD to administering first aid to a person in need. Your organisation can opt to purchase an AED to enhance your first aid response and for the benefit of your staff, volunteers, members, and all visitors.



HOW TO CHOOSE AN AED?

There are various brands and models of AEDs to choose from. Things to consider when selecting:

- **Budget:** packages range from approx. \$2,000-3,000 (single unit)
- **Training** must be included
- **Accessories** e.g. storage cabinet, paediatric pads (1-8 years)
- **Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)**
- **IP Rating** Dust & Water resistance
- **Fully Automatic** (machine delivers the shock) Vs **Semi-Automatic** (rescuer press button for shock)
- **CPR Feedback**
- **Maintenance:** Cost and timeframes for replacement pads and batteries

LOCATION

You may consider placing the AED at a designated first aid station, near a reception desk, entrance hallway, etc. If your organisation has multiple premises, consider choosing a consistent location for ease of access.

If you require an **AED to be available 24/7** and by all users in and around your premises, you can investigate enhanced security cabinets to house your AED. For **sporting and community** venues, consider speaking to your local Council and other user groups for support for the AED to be retained at the venue all year round (shared asset).

DEFIBRILLATOR PLACEMENT:

- 01 VISIBILITY:** The unit must be displayed visible to all users & visitors of the venue including signage
- 02 SECURITY:** The unit should be secure and safe from theft & vandalism
- 03 ACCESSIBILITY:** The unit must be accessed quickly and easily in the event of cardiac arrest





COMMUNICATION

It is important that you communicate that your venue has an AED! You must consider communicating the availability of the unit to all individuals who use your premises (staff, volunteers, user groups, etc) and to neighbouring venues (eg businesses, homes, sporting fields, etc). Ensure you communicate the days and times it is available as this varies from premises to premises.



POLICY & PROCEDURES

It is vital that the AED becomes part of the operations of any venue. Ensure that the AED is incorporated to your Policy & Procedures including:

*First Aid Policies // Fire Evacuation Plans take the AED to any assembly point
Risk Assessments // Staff & Volunteer Induction Programs // Training*



SIGNAGE

Signage inside and outside the premises is vital to communicate where the machine is. Most AED packages come with signage but consider purchasing additional signage depending on the size and vicinity of your venue. (eg directional signage, stickers on windows, etc). You can also liaise with Council for directional signage in Parks, public spaces, etc.

Ensure you use the Internationally Recognised Green AED Signage!



TRAINING

AEDs are designed to be used by the general public and can not be misused. Training is important to provide confidence in using the equipment.

AED training can be accessed:

- As part of your AED purchase
- On request through various providers
- HLTAID001: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- HLTAID003: Provide First Aid

The Australian Resuscitation Council recommends HLTAID001 be completed every 12months and HLTAID003 every 3yrs.

MAINTENANCE

It is critical that your AED is always ready to use! Please ensure: You **set up & maintain** the unit to the manufacturer's requirements. **The battery is ALWAYS inserted** – AEDs have their own power source without the need for installation or hardwiring. **Electrode Pads** are ALWAYS inserted.

AED Indicator shows that the machine is working.

(Check machine & contact provider if indicator turns to red flashing light or red X)

All AEDs do regular **self-checks** and will let you know of any errors. Develop a maintenance program to do regular recorded checks that the machine is operational. If you use the AED, ensure you **REPLACE** the electrode pads on the machine. They are ONE (1) use only.

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