

1 COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS—RESOURCES—IMPROVEMENT

Mr Werner-Gibbings, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the critical importance of early intervention in cases of sudden cardiac arrest, when every minute without CPR and defibrillation significantly reduces the victim’s chance of survival;
 - (b) that accessible Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and the presence of community first responders willing and able to assist in these circumstances have been proven to save lives;
 - (c) that there were 1,401 adult cardiac arrests in the ACT between 2014 and 2024, according to the Productivity Commission’s 2025 Health Services “Report on Government Services”;
 - (d) that ambulance jurisdictions in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales are successfully using Public Notification Applications, which alert volunteer community responders to nearby emergencies;
 - (e) that Ambulance Victoria has been using the GoodSAM Public Notification Application since 2017, and released research in June 2025 finding that patients in cardiac arrest were 37 percent more likely to survive to hospital discharge when volunteer community responders alerted by a Public Notification Application arrived before paramedics;
 - (f) that the ACT is well-placed to adopt innovative, community-based healthcare solutions like Public Notification Applications to empower citizens and support emergency services to deliver better community health outcomes; and
 - (g) that this type of capability could also be leveraged across other emergency services; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) consider implementing a Public Notification Application to support improved community health outcomes;
 - (b) explore how a Public Notification Application could assist the ACT Ambulance Service, other emergency service providers and relevant community health organisations such as St John Ambulance;
 - (c) explore how a public education campaign can raise awareness of heart health and CPR skills to empower citizens to support our emergency services; and
 - (d) report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2026.

Mr Werner-Gibbings, by leave, moved the following amendment: Omit all text after paragraph (2)(c), substitute:

- “(d) explore options for mandating defibrillators in every ACT Government school and ACT Government workplace;

- (e) work with St John Ambulance ACT and their partners to increase the roll out of publicly available defibrillators beyond having one in each suburb and investigate options for defibrillators near sporting ovals, community facilities and public transport locations; and
- (f) report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2026.”.

Debate ensued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the critical importance of early intervention in cases of sudden cardiac arrest, when every minute without CPR and defibrillation significantly reduces the victim’s chance of survival;
 - (b) that accessible Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and the presence of community first responders willing and able to assist in these circumstances have been proven to save lives;
 - (c) that there were 1,401 adult cardiac arrests in the ACT between 2014 and 2024, according to the Productivity Commission’s 2025 Health Services “Report on Government Services”;
 - (d) that ambulance jurisdictions in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales are successfully using Public Notification Applications, which alert volunteer community responders to nearby emergencies;
 - (e) that Ambulance Victoria has been using the GoodSAM Public Notification Application since 2017, and released research in June 2025 finding that patients in cardiac arrest were 37 percent more likely to survive to hospital discharge when volunteer community responders alerted by a Public Notification Application arrived before paramedics;
 - (f) that the ACT is well-placed to adopt innovative, community-based healthcare solutions like Public Notification Applications to empower citizens and support emergency services to deliver better community health outcomes; and
 - (g) that this type of capability could also be leveraged across other emergency services; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) consider implementing a Public Notification Application to support improved community health outcomes;
 - (b) explore how a Public Notification Application could assist the ACT Ambulance Service, other emergency service providers and relevant community health organisations such as St John Ambulance;
 - (c) explore how a public education campaign can raise awareness of heart health and CPR skills to empower citizens to support our emergency services;

- (d) explore options for mandating defibrillators in every ACT Government school and ACT Government workplace;
 - (e) work with St John Ambulance ACT and their partners to increase the roll out of publicly available defibrillators beyond having one in each suburb and investigate options for defibrillators near sporting ovals, community facilities and public transport locations; and
 - (f) report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2026.”—
- be agreed to—put and passed.