

May 2017

Volume 4, Issue 1

ABN: 77 829 511 359

Registered No: A00214235

RAAV Ravings



Ambulance Victoria phone app to send Victorians to medical emergencies

First aid-trained Victorians could soon be called to handle triple-0 medical emergencies via a new mobile phone app.

Under the plan being developed by Ambulance Victoria, the app would notify the "trusted responders" when somebody nearby had suffered a heart attack.

The responders would be given the location of the patient and sent to provide CPR, as well as being alerted to the location of the nearest public defibrillator.

Paramedics would simultaneously be sent to treat the patient.

The idea has been hailed as a potential life-saver, but the union representing the state's paramedics has

warned it could also be used to water down services.

Ambulance Victoria's clinical and community services general manager, Ian Patrick, said the responders could include off-duty paramedics, medical professionals or other emergency responders, as well as members of the public with appropriate first aid training.

"This type of technology can pinpoint the location of 'trusted responders' who have downloaded the app onto their phone and identify if the responder is near a patient," he said.

"We know early effective CPR greatly improves a cardiac arrest patient's chance of survival."

Mr Patrick said similar technology was already being

used overseas.

Ambulance Employee Association state secretary Steve McGhie said the association supported people being trained in first aid and responding to emergency situations, but was wary of a watering down of services.

"I'm hoping it's not in lieu of putting additional resources in the community; we're a bit concerned it may have an effect on future Ambulance Victoria resourcing."

McGhie said the plan also opened the door to potential risks for people responding to a medical emergency.

"We're also concerned about the risk of people responding to a cardiac arrest in a hurry, the health and safety risk of someone who might be rushing to a scene," he said.

Mr McGhie said the association had not been consulted about the mobile phone app, currently out to tender.

Minister for Health and Ambulance Services Jill Hennessy said the idea met the aims of the government's Ambulance Action Plan, which includes better equipping people to act as first responders.

"Time is crucial in cardiac arrest cases and every second counts," she said.

"We know the evidence shows that survival outcomes for patients suffering from cardiac arrest are significantly higher when bystanders in the community act as first responders.

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Foresters - Death & Disability Fund

With ongoing discussion still in progress we are hopeful that a resolution will be forthcoming in the not too distant future.

However we are still in need of all members to indicate if they are willing to contribute or not. To date approximately 25% on our membership has responded to the emails and letters sent out.

Please advise Secretary, Ian Cameron, as soon as possible so that we can make a strong case to Foresters for our inclusion in this important Fund.

Subscription Renewals

With Members Subscription due on the 1st July. Invoices will be sent to all Members who are required to renew their Membership with in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Upon receiving your invoice you feel that it to be incorrect please contact Secretary Ian Cameron who can assist in resolving any issue.

If you do not receive an Invoice then your Membership is upto date or in advance.

We respectfully request prompt payment so that we can continue to provide the best services for you, our Members.

