



STATEMENT ON EARLY ACCESS TO DEFIBRILLATION

1. This statement from the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine relates to the provision of early access to defibrillation for out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest.
2. This statement is applicable to all persons involved in the planning and provision of out-of-hospital emergency response.
3. Early access to defibrillation is the single most important intervention that has been demonstrated to save lives in collapsed persons suffering sudden cardiac arrest. Early access to defibrillation using automated external defibrillators is considered as an intervention integrated with cardiopulmonary resuscitation within basic life support.
4. The availability of latest technology automated external defibrillators has placed defibrillation safety within the domain of the lay public and strategies for the availability of such machines in public places continues to evolve.
5. The outcome of out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest is enhanced by rapid access to the ambulance paramedic system and prompt transfer to hospital facilities capable of managing ongoing definitive critical care.
6. ACEM supports, within a coordinated health care framework, the further evaluation of options, beyond traditional responder systems, to effect timely availability of cardiopulmonary resuscitation and early access defibrillation of persons in cardiac arrest.
7. ACEM advocates the adequate resourcing of providers within health to permit excellence in training, effective communication, efficient operation and best achievable clinical outcomes.