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PRESS RELEASE

Defibrillators in Public Places

During the past week newspaper reports have appeared that raises concern as to the placement of Automated External Defibrillators in public places, in this case railway stations in Sydney. In these articles it is stated that these defibrillators are complex devices to use, CitiRail staff may be held liable and questioning the cost.

The Australian Resuscitation Council (ARC) – Australia's peak body on issues relating to resuscitation – refutes the claims made in these articles. The provision of defibrillators in public places - a concept internationally known as Public Access Defibrillation - is now widespread in many places throughout the world including the United Kingdom, Europe, USA and in every State or Territory in Australia. These devices are easy to use and are now regarded as part of basic CPR training.

Evidence from a number of studies has clearly shown a greater chance of survival from cardiac arrest in places where defibrillators are publically available. Places where defibrillators have been located include airports, casinos, football stadiums, shopping centres and work locations. Have a closer look when next you are at an airport or shopping centre!!

The ARC unequivocally supports public access defibrillation and would congratulate RailCorp in undertaking this important public health initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. Jacobs', with a flourish underneath.

**Associate Professor Ian Jacobs
Chairman**

12 September 2008

Queries: Associate Professor Ian Jacobs Mobile 0418916261