

Wee Waa community raises funds for life-saving machine

Thanks to the generosity of Wee Waa businesses and community members, the town will have a life-saving defibrillator machine installed in the Imperial Hotel, the Barwon Division of General Practice confirmed today.

The town has raised the required \$3000 to install a defibrillator (Heart Start) machine with donations coming in from the Narrabri Shire Council, Wee Waa Bowling Club, Wee Waa Chamber of Commerce and a number of generous individuals.

The Barwon Division of General Practice has been coordinating the fundraising for the HeartStart project following the success of similar projects in Moree, Narrabri, Gunnedah and Manilla.

Barwon Division Board Director and Wee Waa GP Dr Subramaniam Sivanathan, said the installation of the machine was a great benefit for the Wee Waa community.

"Sudden Cardiac Arrest kills 20,000 Australians every year and 75% of those deaths occur outside a hospital", Dr Sivanathan said.

"Chance of survival for a cardiac arrest victim reduced by about 10% every minute defibrillation is delayed so it is wonderful that the community will now have such easy access to a life-saving machine".

The Imperial Hotel was chosen as the site for the new machine to be installed because of its proximity to the main shopping areas of the town and its long opening hours.

Dr Sivanathan praised Imperial Hotel owner Barry Noble for becoming involved in the project.

The Barwon Division is now organising training from St John Ambulance for the staff of the Imperial Hotel and the Wee Waa Medical Centre.

Dr Sivanathan said the machines are safe, very easy to use and the most effective way for members of the public to save the lives of their family, friends and co-workers.

"The machines use voice prompts so they effectively talk a person through the defibrillation. They will also not work on someone whose heart is functioning normally so there is no risk of injury", he said.

Attached is further information about Automatic External Defibrillators from St John Ambulance.

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