

Scouts NSW and Heart of the Nation partner to save lives



More than 20 Scout halls across NSW will soon have defibrillators as part of a new partnership between Scouts NSW and Heart of the Nation.

Scouts NSW Chief Commissioner Lloyd Nurthen and Heart of the Nation CEO and Founder Greg Page announced the partnership as part of Restart a Heart Day on Monday 16 October.

Mr Nurthen said Scouts will “Be Prepared” to step up and save a life in the event of an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.

“By providing life-saving equipment across local Scout halls in NSW, we will be empowering not only our members but local communities to save lives,” he said.

“Our volunteers already undertake first aid training and will be provided with guidance on using the new defibrillators.

“Our youth members, ranging in age from five to 25, will also learn how to use the devices.”

Heart of the Nation was established in 2020 by OG Yellow Wiggle Greg Page to increase survival rates of cardiac arrest.

Page suffered a cardiac arrest at a Wiggles reunion show that was raising funds for bushfire relief efforts and was saved through the use of a defibrillator.

“Heart of the Nation seeks to lead change through education, training and access to AEDs within one minute at all locations across the country,” he said.

“The devices are placed in accessible, prominent locations and are fitted with GPS tracking.

“The addition of defibrillators at Scout Halls will ensure every Scout Hall is a safe haven ready to respond at times of need.”

Expressions of interest to determine the best locations for the installation of the defibrillator are now open.

For more information, visit <https://scoutsnsw.au/heart>

Why are we supporting AEDs?

- Nine in 10 people will not survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest
- Every year about 30,000 Australians and New Zealanders suffer an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest
- Every minute a patient is in cardiac arrest, not receiving CPR or AED shock, chances of survival drop by 10 per cent
- Use of an AED within the first three minutes of a cardiac arrest improves life-saving outcomes of patients from 10 per cent up to 70 per cent



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- Anyone, including an eight-year-old child, can operate an AED. These devices are equipped with vocal instructions and may also include visual aids to guide users through the usage process
- An AED will only deliver a shock to the patient if they require it.

Interview Opportunities:

Lloyd Nurthen, Chief Commissioner, Scouts NSW

Greg Page, CEO/Founder, Heart of the Nation

Video: <https://youtu.be/-hYdyXjoHiQ>

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About Scouts NSW

Scouts NSW provides young Aussies from all different backgrounds, aged five to 25 years, with fun and challenging opportunities to grow through adventure. With 16,000 youth and adult members from various cultural and faith-based backgrounds and with varying abilities, Scouts is one of the largest and most successful youth organisations in the state.

Today's Joey Scouts (aged 5-8), Cub Scouts (aged 8-11), Scouts (aged 11-14), Venturer Scouts (aged 14-17), and Rover Scouts (aged 18-25) can take part in an extraordinary variety of outdoor activities, from "traditional Scouting skills" such as camping and bush craft, through to more extreme challenges such as abseiling, overnight hiking, rafting, canoeing, canyoning, snow activities, rock climbing, sailing and even flying! Scouts also have the opportunity to become involved in performing arts, leadership development, community service, amateur radio operation, environmental projects, large-scale Australian events such as Cuborees, Jamborees and Ventures, international events and service projects in developing countries. Scouts NSW puts the needs of young people first – Scouts NSW's youth led, adult supported approach ensures Scouts are always at the forefront of our program and gives them the platform to take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. scoutsnsw.com.au/about

About Heart of the Nation:

Heart of the Nation, a not-for-profit charity and social enterprise, is on a mission to transform how Australians respond to sudden cardiac arrest. Committed to increasing survival rates, Heart of the



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Nation focuses on education, training, and rapid access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) within critical minutes.

Through a range of innovative initiatives, Heart of the Nation is empowering communities and individuals to become confident responders. Heart of the Nation operates a national registry of AEDs which are shown on the Heart of the Nation App serves as a national registry of AEDs, enabling users to locate the nearest AED, sign up as a responder, and receive incident alerts. Additionally, the Great Aussie AED Hunt encourages individuals to become AED Hunters, identifying AEDs in their communities and registering them on the app, further expanding access to these life-saving devices.

Coinciding with World Restart a Heart Day, Heart of the Nation is hosting the "World's Largest CPR Course", an exciting online web event set to take place on Monday, 16 October. This event provides an opportunity for Australians to enhance their CPR skills and knowledge. Heart of the Nation's initiatives underscore their dedication to increasing survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest by turning bystanders into confident responders.

Join them in this life-saving journey and help make Australia a safer place for all.

For more information and to get involved, please visit www.heartofthenation.com.au/media

