



## U.S. Senate Passes Defibrillator Bill

The American senate approved legislation in October 2000 that provides \$25 million (almost \$50 million Australian) over the next 3 years to facilitate the placement of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in small communities and rural areas.

The Department of Health and Human Services will provide funds through a grant program to local emergency response agencies, both volunteer and commercial.

**Cities across America have begun to recognise the value of fast access to AEDs and are making them available to First Aiders. The concern about cardiac arrest survival rates comes from the single fact that the only intervention that provides survival from sudden cardiac arrest is early defibrillation. For this to be successful, time from collapse to first shock from a defibrillator should be within 5 minutes.**

Death from sudden cardiac arrest in Australia parallels the US but we have a long way to go to convince workplaces to install defibrillators. This action is much more cost effective than spending more money on Ambulance Services.

## CPR SIMPLIFIED !!!!!

### First Aid Training Services - Australia adopts new guidelines

#### **"World's Best Practice"**

As reported in our last newsletter, new guidelines for CPR have been released this year. The guidelines are commonly referred to as the "ILCOR guidelines" (International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation). The recent publication of these guidelines is the product of the following organisations:

- \* American Heart Association
- \* Australian Resuscitation Council
- \* European Resuscitation Council
- \* Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada
- \* New Zealand Resuscitation Council
- \* Resuscitation Councils of Latin America
- \* Resuscitation councils of South Africa

The guidelines were developed using evidence based criteria and all changes were assessed not just for scientific accuracy but also for possible future effects on safety, cost, effectiveness, and teachability.

So what does this all mean? Well, hopefully soon, all Resuscitation will be taught to similar guidelines. This of course will take time to have all countries adopt the new guidelines as dramatic changes will be required by all concerned in the review of training programs and teaching materials. **First Aid Training Services - Australia** has decided to adopt these guidelines based on the fact that they represent world's best practice and have been endorsed by the executive of the peak industry body, the Australian Institute of First Aid and Emergency Care Providers.

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John Fahey, president of AIFAECF, has stated that the executive has endorsed the changes and it will be put to the membership in January 2001 to ratify. John Fahey stated that " indeed many members throughout Australia have adopted the new guidelines and are already changing teaching materials accordingly. We hope that other organisations move quickly to adopt the changes as they will benefit the community greatly. First Aid Training Services - Australia has already modified course materials and all training programs to suit the new guidelines. Over the last month 170 students have been taught to these guidelines and the feedback from both students and facilitators have been positive regarding the teachability and retention of information.

*Refer to page two for a summary of changes.*

## Who should have Defibrillators?

American Heart Association International Guidelines for 2000 recommends that a Defibrillator (AED) should be placed in any workplace where there is a reasonable probability of **one sudden cardiac arrest occurring every five years!**

**NEXT ADVANCED RESUSCITATION COURSE**  
**CAIRNS: NOVEMBER 15**  
**(1 DAY FULL-TIME)**

**NEXT BRONZE MEDALLION COURSE**  
**CAIRNS: NOVEMBER 18**  
**(1 DAY FULL-TIME)**

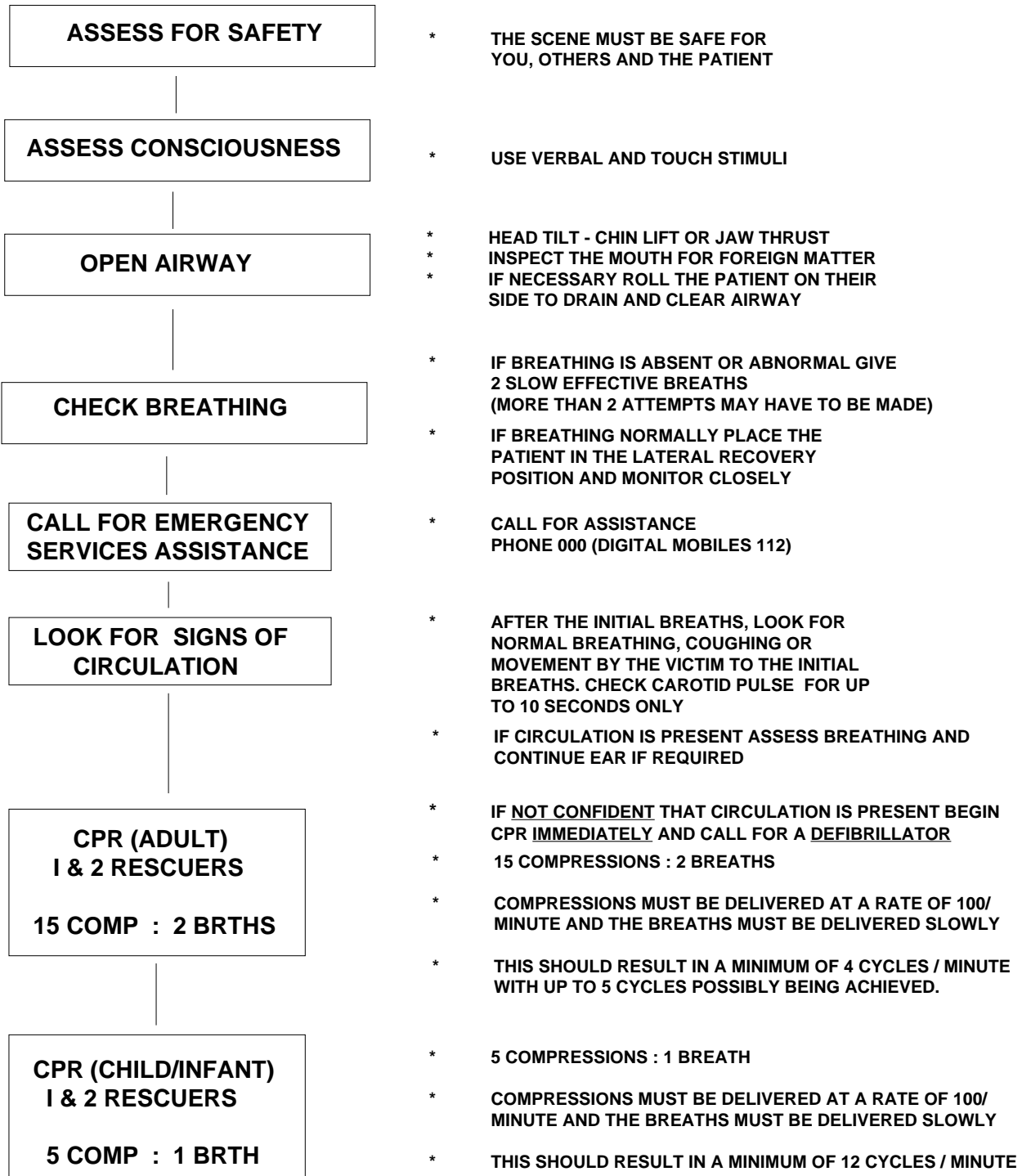
**NEXT CPR / LIFE SUPPORT UPDATE**  
**CAIRNS: DECEMBER 5**  
**(1 EVENING)**

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**BASIC LIFE SUPPORT FLOWCHART**

This information is a brief summary of our new flowchart for Resuscitation. More detailed information is provided during actually training sessions. Note that compression rates are faster than previous guidelines. CPR for Adults is the same whether for 1 or 2 rescuers (15:2) and CPR for Children and Infants is the same whether for 1 or 2 rescuers (5:1) Also initial EAR breaths are 2 and done slowly to minimise stomach distension.



*Edited by Charles Makray,  
managing director*

*If wish to update to these new guidelines please note our CPR update class coming up early December or book a class for your workplace*