



Speech by

Mr N. ROBERTS

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Hansard 21 October 1998

DEFIBRILLATORS

Mr ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (9.58 a.m.): Today in the House I raise the efforts of the Queensland Ambulance Service to have lifesaving cardiac defibrillators placed in areas where people congregate. Early intervention with a cardiac defibrillator promotes the chances of surviving a heart attack to as much as 30% to 40% compared with a 9% chance of survival when a victim receives manual CPR and late defibrillation. As such, we should be actively developing approaches aimed at promoting the number of defibrillators in existence, especially in areas demonstrated as having a record of heart attack occurrences. The Queensland Ambulance Service is currently undertaking a project to identify target areas such as shopping centres and sporting centres for the placement of defibrillators. I place on record my support for this endeavour and raise this matter for the attention of the Parliament.

In times of scarce resources, we also need to look at funding options for such an initiative. I have been advised that the cost of defibrillator units ranges from between \$2,000 and \$4,500. I understand that the QAS is currently endeavouring to identify funding sources for its drive to increase the zone of survival, that is, the area in which a defibrillator can be accessed within four minutes of an attack.

One idea that should be considered is a move to legislate for the provision of defibrillators as a condition of all new major building approvals for sites such as shopping centres and major clubs. The provision of appropriate training to operators should also be a key element in any such initiative. In much the same way as fire extinguishers are made a mandatory requirement for the purpose of saving human lives, I believe we should also be considering our options for promoting the provision of lifesaving cardiac defibrillators. When it comes to saving lives, I am sure that all honourable members would agree that it is incumbent upon us to actively promote all efforts aimed at promoting the safety and wellbeing of the community.
