



Speech by

Hon. MERRI ROSE

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Hansard 15 September 1999

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

CPR2000

Hon. M. ROSE (Currumbin—ALP) (Minister for Emergency Services) (10 a.m.), by leave: The CPR2000 project is about saving lives. The aim of the project is to have one in four adult Queenslanders proficient in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation—or CPR—by the end of next year. Our current survival rate is not good enough. We must strive to improve; lives depend on it.

If one has a cardiac arrest, there is no-one to give CPR and one does not get defibrillated, then one's survival chance is zero. Only 5% of people who get either CPR or defibrillation, but not both, survive. Where the victim receives both CPR from a bystander and rapid defibrillation by the ambulance, the survival rate is 17%. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that someone will survive a cardiac arrest, even with the best of care. However, we can reduce the number of deaths through targeted and well-managed education campaigns, and that is where CPR2000 comes in.

I would like to congratulate Queensland Ambulance Service Commissioner, Dr Gerry FitzGerald, and member organisations of the Australian Resuscitation Council for the concept and development of the CPR2000 project. The CPR2000 team has taken what can be a complex topic and broken it down into just the information a person needs to do CPR on an adult in cardiac arrest. It has presented the information in a self-help guide and provided information and training so that people without any prior experience as first aid instructors can learn how to do CPR and to teach CPR to their peers. The basic philosophy is that if someone trains 10 people in CPR, then 10 people are trained. However, if someone trains 10 peer trainers and those people each train 10 people, 100 people are trained.

We have to get the message out into the community and the message here is a simple one. Two-thirds of Queensland cardiac arrest victims do not get CPR. The vast majority of Queenslanders over the age of 40, the most at-risk group, do not ever learn CPR. Yet most victims are over 40, most cardiac arrests happen in or near the victim's home and it is usually the partner or an immediate relative who is the rescuer. We need to train adults in adult CPR if we are going to turn the current survival rate around. The QAS is seeking major sponsors to help spread the word.

All of us in this Chamber can play our role. My staff and I recently undertook the training, and I am happy to make training available through the QAS for interested members. I hope those members who do not have CPR skills will seriously consider being trained. We can all be trained in CPR and we can all be peer trainers. Every extra person who has CPR skills is potentially a lifesaver.
