

Shoctober Official Media Event

Bradfield Park, Kirribilli at Noon, Friday 30 October 2015

Two hundred high school students will demonstrate en masse how easy it is to save a life using a defibrillator, at Bradfield Park near the Sydney Harbour Bridge at noon today.

The demonstration will use a new teaching aid called a *Defibmat*, which simulates using a defibrillator but does not require specialist training for a teacher to use it.

The students have been learning the requisite skills in their PDHPE classes during a trial at North Sydney girls school Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College.

Some of the girls will join students from other schools for the media event at Kirribilli, where they will show off their skills to NSW Fire Commissioner Greg Mullins and a host of senior emergency services officials from fire, police, ambulance and the rural fire service.

The event marks the end of Shoctober, Australia's official defibrillator awareness month.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest kills between 23,000 and 33,000 Australians each year, more than breast cancer, shootings and road crashes combined. That's about two busloads of people dying every day.

Sydney's Cardiac Arrest Survival Foundation (CASF) has pledged to teach over one million students across Australia how to save lives using defibrillators.

With roughly half a million students currently doing years 9 and 10 across Australia, the Cardiac Arrest Survival Foundation wants to educate as many of them as possible so that when the time comes, they'll know what to do.

CONTACTS

For event information, phone Renata on 0417 190 038

For interview, phone Kim Vandervelde, Head of PDHPE at Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, or 0412 595 213.