



MEDIA RELEASE

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Taking safety to heart

TasNetworks is supercharging safety with almost 100 new defibrillators.

The business is partnering with St John Ambulance Tasmania to put 98 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in its fleet vehicles, and train its team members to use them.

The scope of the roll-out's believed to be an Australian-first for an energy distribution business. It could also, on occasion, help save civilian lives more generally.

TasNetworks CEO, Seán Mc Goldrick, said nothing's more important to the business than the safety of Tasmanians, including its own.

"Safety's our top priority, and we've improved hugely in recent years," Dr Mc Goldrick said.

"Delivering electricity carries obvious risks and dangers. The defibrillator roll-out's another great step towards protecting our people and community," he said.

While mainly intended to protect TasNetworks team members, the defibrillators could also prove vital for saving civilian lives, if needed.

State-wide ambulance response times vary a lot based on location and demand. For victims of sudden cardiac arrest, every minute that passes without defibrillation reduces the chance of survival by 10 per cent (eg. five minutes reduces survival likelihood by 50 per cent).

"Tasmania's ambulance service does an incredible job. But like any service, they can't be everywhere immediately. Plus, our people often work in very remote areas where access makes the response time longer," Dr Mc Goldrick said.

"The defibrillator roll-out gives our field crews rapid access to lifesaving equipment, wherever they are. If that ends-up saving the life of another Tasmanian, or a tourist, or anyone else in a remote emergency, that's a wonderful thing," he said.

TasNetworks Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) fell to 4.8 in 2020/21 – down from 6.6 in 2019/20, and 10 the year before.

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