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Contact: Graeme Holland

Mr Leighton Drury
State Secretary
Fire Brigades Employees Union of NSW
1-7 Belmore Street
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

6 May 2020

Dear Leighton,

Re: Collaboration with NSW Ambulance regarding Public Access Defibrillation

I refer to our meeting on Monday 4 May 2020 with respect to Public Access Defibrillation.

NSW Ambulance has developed the Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) program that will engage the NSW Emergency Services Organisations. Fire and Rescue NSW has been working with NSW Ambulance in support of the PAD program and a Memorandum of Understanding relating to the PAD has now been signed by both parties. A copy of this Memorandum of Understanding is attached with this correspondence.

NSW Ambulance has also engaged with the State Emergency Service, Volunteer Rescue Association and Rural Fire Service to establish partnerships supporting PAD. The goal of these partnerships is to give all members of our community the best possible opportunity of surviving an out of hospital cardiac arrest, no matter where they live in our state. The intention is to utilise existing Automated External Defibrillators and CPR trained personnel who may be closer to an OHCA than a paramedic anywhere in NSW.

Clinical evidence recognises that early initiation of CPR and defibrillation is critical to achieving the best possible outcome for people experiencing out of hospital cardiac arrest. Public Access Defibrillation programs are an important strategy enabling early initiation of these interventions throughout the community. Public Access Defibrillation then forms the base on which Advanced Life Support care provided by paramedics depends.

FRNSW has Automated External Defibrillators, training in CPR and we work and live within communities throughout NSW. We are ideally placed to support NSW Ambulance in its important work of saving lives in out of hospital cardiac arrest through the early initiation of CPR and defibrillation.

Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) have also been signed between NSW Ambulance, the Volunteer Rescue Association and the State Emergency Service. NSW Ambulance is in the final stages of establishing an MoU with the Rural Fire Service.

The Public Access Defibrillation program will see FRNSW and our Emergency Service partners dispatched to cardiac arrest incidents through the InterCAD Electronic Messaging System where they are identified as the closest Automatic External Defibrillator resource. NSW Ambulance will simultaneously respond paramedics to the cardiac arrest.

In the coming weeks we will continue to work with NSW Ambulance and our emergency service colleagues to implement the Public Access Defibrillation program, during this time, FRNSW will continue to consult with the FBEU regarding the implementation process.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Graeme Holland, A/Manager Industrial Relations on 0418230748.

FRNSW looks forward to working with the FBEU and associated partners to implement this important programme.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Fewtrell
Deputy Commissioner Field Operations
Fire and Rescue NSW