

## Cost stopping defibs at all clubs

By DANIEL TRAN April 8, 2012, 10:06 a.m.



Revived cause: Defib Your Club For Life directors Sue Buckman and Andrew White at the launch of a rollout of defibrillators for South East Juniors football league last month. Picture: Matthew Furneaux

ONLY a third of the football clubs in Monash have portable defibrillators with the rest citing steep costs as the reason they can't buy the life-saving machines.

The Mulgrave Football Club remains the only team in Monash to have a defibrillator on hand, thanks to a donation from the Lions Club of Wheelers Hill. The Waverley Blues are also due to get a machine in the coming weeks with help from the Eastern Football League and Rotary.

But the rest of the clubs in Monash - Oakleigh, Clayton, Mount Waverley and Glen Waverley - are still looking into buying the machines.

Most have told the Weekly that the machine's \$2500 price tag is the biggest factor holding them back.

"The major problem is the cost of getting one in," Mount Waverley Football Club president Wayne Dooley said.

A cardiac arrest suffered by a player at a game in Dingley last month has spurred

the Southern Football League to plead for a state-funded rollout of defibrillators in all sport venues.

SFL chief executive Wayne Holdsworth said the league would take a lead role in the campaign to prevent a fatality on the field.

"We see it as absolutely critical to have one in every sporting facility - not just for footy but for the whole community," he said.

A patient's chances of survival are considered highest if defibrillation is done within a few minutes.

Clayton Football Club president Greg Collins said his club didn't have a defibrillator because it simply couldn't afford one.

"Everyone should have them but it's three grand that we don't have. That's the only issue. We just don't have that sort of money."

Glen Waverley Hawks secretary Andrea Hocking said money was a major factor, especially in light of the club's relocation.

But she said the machines were essential.

"It only has to help once in a lifetime. And we've not really had the instance for it but saying that, it could happen round one, couldn't it?"

"They're definitely of benefit to the club and the president and I are trying to get one down to our club."

While cost was also an issue for Oakleigh Football secretary Bernie Warner, she felt players on the ground would feel better knowing if the team had a defibrillator.

Mulgrave Football Club president Ron Gladman said his team had not yet used the machine that was donated to them but encouraged other clubs to get on board.

"I think most clubs would like to take steps to put one in if they can. It obviously gives you a degree of comfort that if someone does have a heart issue, then we've got the means to keep them going until the ambulance arrives.

"We just hope we never have to."

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