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St. John Ambulance Western Australia – General Successes

General Successes for St. John Ambulance in Western Australia

BRIEF BACKGROUND

Since attending a Seattle Resuscitation Academy event in 2016, St. John Ambulance in Western Australia placed a significant focus on bettering its survival rates. They took on several projects along the chain of survival, aiming to improve T-CPR and implement HP-CPR, as well as several other measures to increase positive outcomes. In 2016, they had 118 OHCA survivors in Western Australia, and strived to increase that number.

STEPS TAKEN

St. John Ambulance took on several projects to improve the chain of survival:

- **T-CPR** — They focused on refining T-CPR, and in doing so, studied the linguistics of OHCA calls to the dispatch center.
- **Community CPR/AED** — They placed an increasing number of AEDs in the community.
- **HP-CPR** — Beginning in July 2018, they began training responders in HP-CPR.
- **Culture of excellence** — By encouraging engagement among hospital employees, they've grown more passionate about achieving a true culture of excellence.

CHALLENGES

The ongoing /reinforcement training for paramedics in HP-CPR principles is a challenge due to cost. To date, St. John Ambulance has managed to provide follow-up training for just 15% of the staff. They also faced complications after introducing a new monitor capable of audio recording. The workforce was uncertain of the legalities of audio recording, resulting in a formal review by an industrial body.

RESULTS

St. John Ambulance's OHCA data goes back to January 1996. Prior to 2018, they never had more than two months with 10 or more survivors. From February 2019 onward, every month had 10. The three most successful months were:

- December 2018 – 17 survivors
- April 2018 – 20 survivors
- May 2018 – 21 survivors

About 50% of additional survivors are within the Utstein group. St. John Ambulance's Utstein rate is presumably in the mid to high 30s, for an entire state of 2.5 million square kilometers.

OUTLOOK

While they're not sure of the next challenge, St. John Ambulance suspects that simply sustaining its efforts would be a favorable outcome. But they're challenging themselves to reach an ambitious goal of 200+ survivors.

CONTACT

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