

The Emergency Medical Information Book

If someone said 'this little green book could save your life!', would you buy it..... Of course you would!

The Emergency Medical Information Book has come along way since it's conception in 1998 by a paramedic from the Modbury division of the South Australian Ambulance Service. The idea was discussed with a Rotarian from Tea Tree Gully Club in South Australia, and then through a joint support program by Tea Tree Gully, Modbury and Golden Grove clubs, the pilot project was officially launched by Dame Roma Mitchell on the 24th May 1999.

This year the Emergency Medical Information Book has been accepted in every state of Australia. So far there are just over 300,000 books distributed to the community and the project committee expects a big increase to the number of books distributed to be close to a million. *"That's our target by the end of 2003"*, claimed by Arthur Jeffries the Emergency Medical Information Book Committee Chairman.

"We have put a lot of effort this year encouraging the Rotary Clubs and the Ambulance Services from each state to agree to run the program". So far the program is supported by Rotary Clubs raising money to purchase the books, and then distribute them to the community.

In many cases, Rotary Clubs were setting up displays in shopping centers and community events to distribute the books for a 'gold coin donation'. By making this approach many clubs would raise more money than the number of actual books distributed, so the money was then put back into buying more books for distributing to Aged Care Homes and more people in the community who need the book. In fact the Emergency Medical Information Book is for all people in the community, including you.

In the event of a medical emergency and an ambulance is called, paramedics need to know about a patients medical history; do they suffer from a medical problem or are they allergic to any proscription drugs. If there is no one who can answer these questions, delays in treatment may not help the condition of the patient.

The Emergency Medical Information Book contains many details including Patient Information and details of Medications, Specific Medical Conditions and History of Medical Problems. If paramedics know this information they can start treatment of a patient sooner, and that is a comforting thought for all of us.

If your club is has not started to distribute the Emergency Medical Information Book's yet; why not be a champion Rotarian and get your club involved in this project. For further information view WEB www.emib.org.au