

NEWS

Help Us To Help You – Ambulance Service

31st March 2005

Rural Ambulance Victoria (RAV) and Rotary have joined forces to produce an easy method of helping people communicate their medical history to Ambulance crews in an emergency anywhere in country Victoria.

"The role of emergency service personnel providing assistance can be made more difficult by not being able to readily access vital information required," said RAV Area Manager Peter LeLievre.

"The unconscious or even the confused person may not be able to communicate with ambulance paramedics in their time of need and obtaining personal details and medical history can be critical in some circumstances as paramedics must sometimes make important, life saving decisions."

To overcome this problem Rural Ambulance Victoria and local Rotary Clubs are distributing a special Emergency Medical Information Book (EMIB) throughout country Victoria.

"This Book originated in South Australia as a joint initiative between Rotary International District 9500 and South Australian Ambulance Service," said Peter.

"These books are of value to any person regardless of age, particularly those with a medical condition, or with known allergies."

"A normally well person with no current medications also should be encouraged to use an EMIB to record their personal details, and to state that they have no current medications or medical problems."

Peter LeLievre said people only needed to follow some basic points to properly use an Emergency Medical Information Book.

- ONE book contains medical information on ONE person.
- The patient information is written into the book and must be kept up to date.
- The book can be kept in a convenient location such as the fridge door by using the magnet pouch.
- The book can be easily taken with a person as they travel.
- The book can be used to provide information to Ambulance personnel, Doctors, or hospital staff.

"This simple book will help emergency service crews gain immediate personal history from people who are unable to communicate due to their medical condition and we believe this book will help Rural Ambulance Victoria Paramedics save lives and assist them in providing the community with a high standard of service."

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