EDITORIAL

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**CONSENSUS ON RESUSCITATION SCIENCE &
TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS
(CoSTR)**

PROCESS FOR REVISING AND UPDATING ARC GUIDELINES

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Many would be aware that for the last several years the ARC, as a member of the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR), has been working on the developing the CoSTR document. This document will represent the most update evidence based evaluation of the resuscitation science. The purpose of the CoSTR document is to identify the science on which the various National Resuscitation Councils are able to develop their guidelines. This approach recognises the international nature of the resuscitation science but acknowledges the need for nationally developed resuscitation guidelines.

The foundation of this evaluation process was the evidence based reviews (worksheets) that were completed for numerous topics relating to basic, advanced, paediatric and neonatal life support as well as interdisciplinary topics. In addition reviews were also undertaken in acute coronary syndromes, stroke and first aid. In total over 400 evidence based worksheets were completed. Of these 44 were completed under the auspices of the Australian Resuscitation Council by either council members or topic experts from around Australia. Furthermore, Australia also had major roles in providing worksheet experts and taskforce chairs. These worksheets are available at the Consensus on Science 2005 website: www.c2005.org

The process has now reached completion with the document due for publication in the journals Circulation and Resuscitation late November 2005. It is important to note that until publication the contents of the CoSTR document cannot be made public. This is consistent with published in the Medical Literature. Clearly as the ARC was a party to the development of the CoSTR document, we are aware of its contents but are signatories to non disclosure agreements. This is also consistent with all the other member councils of ILCOR.

The ARC will adopt the following process to review their guidelines so as to incorporate the science identified in the CoSTR document.

- Jul 2005 Council Meeting: Council will initially identify and discuss those guidelines which may require change. This will cover basic, advanced, paediatric and neonatal guidelines.
- Jul - Dec 2005: Council will prepare draft (or new) guidelines as previously identified.
- Dec 2005 Council Meeting: Council will review draft guidelines and distribute to member organisations for comment. At this stage the CoSTR document will have been published and be publicly available.
- Feb 2006 Council Meeting: Review comments received on draft guidelines. Council publish and distribute final guidelines.

The ARC is acutely aware for the need to have these guidelines finalised and available in a timely manner so as training and other resuscitation materials/equipment can be revised or developed. Accordingly while maintaining our process for developing guidelines as outlined in Guideline 1.3, we will be working to a reasonably tight schedule. In addition, as other National Resuscitation Councils will be undertaking a similar process, and we believe it to be highly desirable to have our guidelines available at about the same time.