



📷 Amanda Moore, 10-week-old Thomas and Peter Richardson, who suffered at heart attack four weeks ago. Picture: Tim Carrafa.

VIC News

# Pulsara app is helping save heart attack, stroke victims from death

Brigid O'Connell, Health reporter, Herald Sun  
an hour ago

📌 Subscriber only

THE odds say Peter Richardson shouldn't be alive to hug his 10-week-old son.

You don't come more close to death than when your heart stops three times in the back of an ambulance, and it takes CPR and a defibrillator to bring you back to the land of the living.

But a new app being trialled in country Victoria, allowing paramedics to "start the clock" so hospital staff can follow the patient's progress in real-time, is seeing the state's sickest patients get lifesaving treatment much sooner.

By pressing a button on their smart phone, paramedics alert all the necessary hospital specialists that a patient with a stroke or heart attack is on their way.

The vital medical charts, scans and identifying information are instantly sent, ensuring a faster transition at hospital handover.

The trial of the Pulsara app — led by the Victorian Stroke Telemedicine program, based at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health — has reduced the time stroke patients receive treatment by 20 per cent.

The app has also:

- Halved the time heart attack patients receive clot-busting medication.

- Helped Ambulance Victoria unblock arteries by two thirds quicker, as seen in the first 40 patients treated in the past two months, part of a six month trial in Bendigo.

Lead clinical investigator and Florey neurologist Professor Chris Bladin said every minute delay in treatment for stroke and heart attack meant tissue death.

“The faster we can initiate treatments, the better the outcome is going to be,” Prof Bladin said.

“It’s been a big issue for us in stroke and heart attack, that sometimes communication has not always been as reliable between paramedics and the hospital as we would like. But this app makes for a seamless transition.”

Mr Richardson, a 37-year-old landscape gardener whose colleagues called Triple O after he experienced chest pains, sweats and hot flushes at work, is preparing to return to work a month after cardiac arrest.

“I woke up the first time with one of the paramedics on top of me, pounding away on my chest. The next time I work up was after the stent was put in,” Mr Richardson said.

“It’s definitely a second chance at life.”

[brigid.oconnell@news.com.au](mailto:brigid.oconnell@news.com.au)

Originally published as [Phone app gives heart attack dad second chance](#)