Television coverage of the NTFL is under a cloud after the ABC announced it would wind back its state and territory-based sports programming.

The public broadcaster would not say how many NT staff would be among the 400 nationwide to lose their jobs. Sources said cuts in Darwin and Alice Springs would likely be less severe than elsewhere. The biggest hit would be the long-expected axing of popular weekly current affairs program 7.30 NT. Current affairs content would likely be wound into nightly news coverage, sources said.

Chief Minister Adam Giles backed the program and said the Territory should be exempt from the budget cuts.

"While my Government receives its fair share of scrutiny from doctors and other medical professionals about patient care – something that will really be invaluable," Mr Sanderson said.

"This new defibrillator means we can treat patients even more effectively than we are already doing, and saving even more Territorians lives," education manager Bradley Sanderson said.

The machine is half the size of the previous model, yet twice as powerful. It is the first of its kind with integrated Wi-Fi and Bluetooth, allowing paramedics to send patient data direct from the scene.

"This means that we can receive on the spot advice from doctors and other medical professionals about patient care – something that will really be invaluable," Mr Sanderson said.

With cardiovascular disease killing one Australian every 12 minutes, St John is stepping up its campaign to sell Automated External Defibrillators to Territory businesses.

"Many heart attacks occur in public places, so AEDs are vital in providing a quick response to cardiac arrest," Mr Sanderson said.

While disappointed that the coverage will no longer continue, AFLNT is grateful to have had such a long and productive relationship with ABC television and thanks the ABC and all its staff in Darwin for the many years of exceptional coverage," Mr Nugent said.

"To ensure that fans continue to see live NTFL games in 2015, AFLNT will continue streaming games live on AFLTV and will also continue discussions with commercial television stations regarding coverage of NTFL games in the future."

The ABC's managing director Mark Scott last week said the national broadcaster would "seek to serve audiences and protect content wherever possible".

"It’s a great cause and they’re all happy to donate," she said.

"The regulars all bought tickets, bought things at the auctions, they all got behind me – they do every year for whoever is doing it."

When she got the call telling her she was top of the pops, she was stoked.

"They told me they were pleased to tell me I was the highest fundraiser in the NT. I had no idea they were going to tell me I was highest national fundraiser."