

ORANGE BASE

Orange

Orange is approximately 240 km from CareFlight's Westmead base, three hours by car.

With an elevation of 947m above sea level, Orange is located on the edge of the much lower western plains and at the foot of the extinct volcano Mount Canobolas, which has an altitude of 1400m. The combination of these features creates some very interesting weather patterns.

Summer is usually in the low to mid 30s and cools down reasonably well overnight. Winter gets very cold with day temperatures of 3°.

CareFlight provides 100% of the doctors to the Orange base. Registrars are rostered to the Orange base for two to three days duration, approximately five to six times per rotation.

The Helicopter Hangar

This helicopter base is arguably the best in New South Wales, not only because of its location and facilities which are as modern as any retrieval operation, but also because the staff are permanent and friendly and the community spirit is palpable.

Operations

Orange has a day only operation from 0800–1800.

Medical checks are performed in the morning. The stretcher bridge is loaded into the helicopter ready for a rapid start in the event of a primary mission. Flight gear, helmet, harness etc are kept inside the hangar which allows the pilot to start engines without waiting for the crew to be mission-ready, while the medical crew are busy obtaining patient details. This leads to significant time savings.

Medical crew must familiarise themselves with their equipment daily. The paramedic picks up the blood from the base hospital while the doctor checks the pack. The paramedic carries the primary response phone.

Morning brief is held at 0900 following the morning checks.

- Orange base averages 30 jobs per month and has been known to do three missions in a day.
- 94% of missions are conducted by helicopter and 6% by road ambulance, equally split between pre-hospital and inter-hospital transfers.

All mission details are recorded on CareFlight's database.

The majority of shifts, about 60% of a registrar's rostered time, are at the Bankstown base.

Note: for more information, see [Bankstown Base](#).