

CareFlight news

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CareFlight makes huge effort to save tiny patients

At CareFlight, our doctors and nurses recognise that the tiniest patients often require the biggest rescue efforts.

In December of last year alone, CareFlight crews flew 342 missions. Ninety of those were to rescue children.

In every single case, CareFlight brought the highly specialised care which has been developed and refined over decades of experience around Australia.

The 90 paediatric missions included retrieving sick newborns, attending childhood accidents, helping deliver babies in outback communities and rescuing toddlers from near-drownings. Our crews travelled by night, through torrential storms, floods and raging fires, bringing hospital-level emergency care directly to young patients.

For people living in remote areas in the Top End, conventional medical help is often many hours away. CareFlight's

Top End Medical Retrieval Service delivers a lifeline to communities when disaster strikes. And if the unthinkable happens far from home, CareFlight's International Air Ambulance can fly to the rescue with onboard intensive care assistance.

When children's lives are at risk, every second counts. CareFlight's Rapid Response Helicopter Service is one of the fastest in the world. Our teams can be airborne within four minutes, flying highly skilled critical care doctors to accident scenes.

When newborns, babies and children need the specialist care only a children's hospital can provide, CareFlight helps get them there, fast. Partnering with the Newborn and Paediatric emergency Transport Service (NETS), our 24-hour service flies sick and injured little ones to receive lifesaving care when they need it most.

Working in remote, regional or



urban settings, CareFlight doctors are some of the best-trained emergency responders in the world. They're either specialists or registrars in one of the three fields of critical care: anaesthesia, emergency medicine or intensive care. Equipped with the latest mobile intensive care units, they're able to deliver hospital-quality care on the spot. And CareFlight has proved that the sooner someone receives expert medical assistance, the better their chances. ✕

A job that makes a difference

A CareFlight nurse since 2008, Paul Campbell has clocked up nearly 1,400 missions.

"I started nursing because I wanted to help children and I thought I could make a difference. So for me, nursing is a very special job," he said.

A father himself, Paul fully appreciates seeing firsthand what a difference CareFlight makes, particularly when the mission is saving a child.

"We don't just look after the patient, we also help reassure the family that we're doing the very best we can," he said.



"I remember a little girl who lived on a remote station, at least six hours from any medical assistance. She had fallen from a tree, breaking her arm. Her mother was beside herself at seeing her young daughter in such pain and not being able to help her.

"We flew to the station and the mother carried the little girl out to us. I could see her arm was badly broken and displaced. I knew I needed to manage her pain immediately and prepared pain relief medication. As the medication began to work she calmed down, and within 15 minutes I had her arm splinted and inserted a catheter into her vein to give her further pain relief. Stabilised, she was now ready for the flight to hospital.

"To see the relief on her mother's face was just as rewarding for me as the smile on her daughter's."

Please give generously today, to help CareFlight fly to the rescue when young lives are in danger. ✕

From Red Centre to the city – CareFlight shares emergency response skills

CareFlight medical educators have been busy taking trauma training out to a wide variety of Australian communities.

Often the first people to arrive at the scene of a serious incident are local rescue volunteers. CareFlight created the MediSim program to provide vital trauma care training that helps save lives.

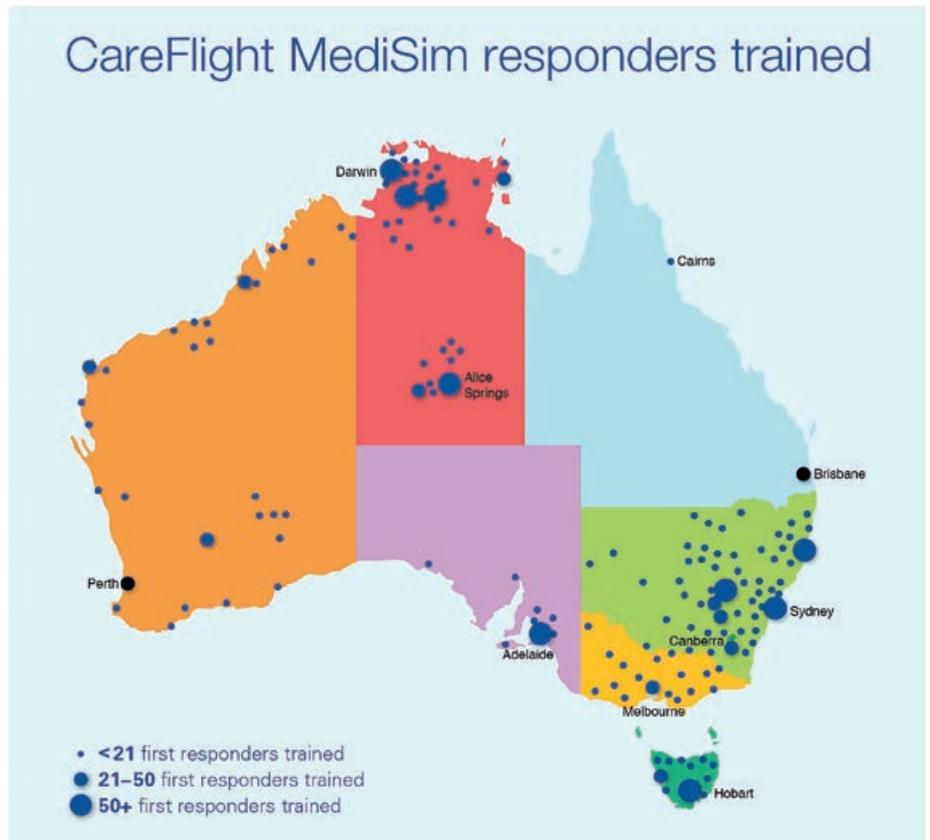
Beginning the year with workshops at CareFlight’s base in Sydney, the team then visited Bowral and Wollongong in NSW before taking the long road to Uluru and Watarrka in the Northern Territory.

CareFlight’s experienced educators trained participants including police, nurses, doctors, park rangers, clinic staff and volunteer emergency services and firefighters.

They took the participants through bleeding control, severe burns, airways management, initial assessment, crush injury and triage. The training concluded with a series of scenarios, bringing together all the learning from the day.

All were able to gain additional knowledge, skills and confidence in dealing with trauma patients.

Thanks to support from Origin Energy and many other commercial and individual supporters, CareFlight provides this training free of charge to those who give so much of their own time to keep their community safe. ✕



Marathon mission saves woman's life

The CareFlight Top End rescue helicopter's remarkable capabilities were put to the test in a marathon life-saving mission between Christmas and the New Year.

A 29-year-old woman suffered a life threatening medical condition at Epenarra station, about 150km south-east of Tennant Creek. She needed surgery urgently but only had a solitary community nurse to care for her.

Epenarra, along with much of Central Australia, was completely cut off thanks to a rare weather system that delivered flooding rains for days on end. The roads were impassable and the dirt airstrip was waterlogged.

At 10.30am on 29 December, more than 1,000km away, CareFlight's Darwin base received the call. Within an hour the CareFlight rescue helicopter was airborne and the crew faced an exceptional logistical and aviation challenge navigating poor weather and limited refuelling options.

Blocked by severe weather from reaching Tennant Creek, they landed at a highway rest area 30km north of the township, where the local fuel distributor met them.

Despite the challenges, they reached Epenarra by dusk and found that the

patient had been expertly cared for by the clinic nurse over a period of more than 24 hours.

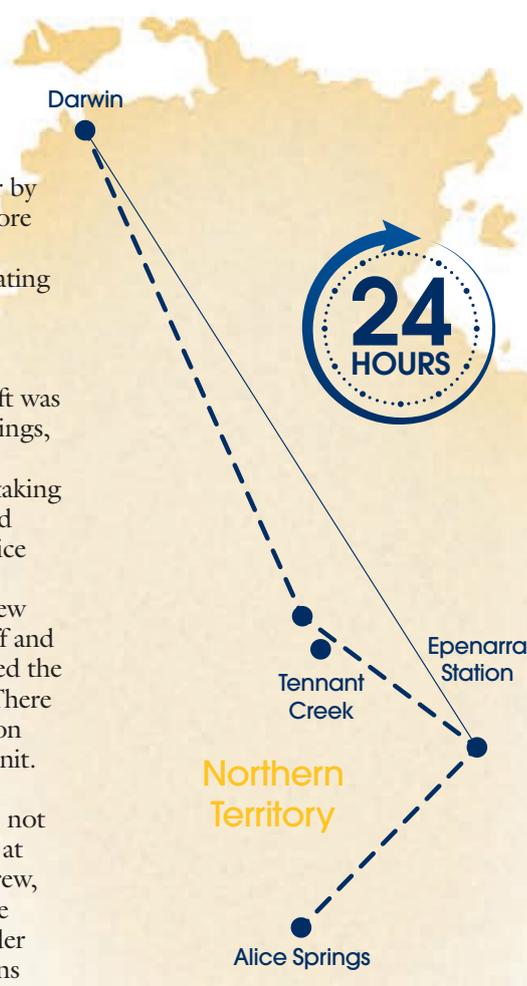
But her condition was deteriorating and they needed to move quickly.

The original plan was to fly the patient to Tennant Creek where a Royal Flying Doctor Service aircraft was waiting to transfer her to Alice Springs, 450km south. But weather again intervened and within minutes of taking off from Epenarra the crew decided it was safest to head straight for Alice Springs.

At Alice Springs Airport, the crew were warmly greeted by RFDS staff and St John Ambulance who transported the patient to Alice Springs Hospital. There she underwent surgery and was soon recuperating in the intensive care unit.

NT Operations Manager Jodie Mills said the successful rescue was not just a tribute to everyone involved at CareFlight - engineers, pilots, aircrew, logisticians, doctors, nurses and the operations controller - but the wider network of people and organisations who rallied to rescue a young woman whose life hung in the balance.

She said the real hero was the remote community nurse who kept the woman alive long enough for help to arrive. ✕



Driving supervisor airlifted after learner's vehicle runs into tree

An 80-year-old man was rescued and flown to hospital following a driving lesson accident in the Hawkesbury region.

A learner driver's car had left the road while moving at about 80 km/h, running into a tree and leaving the driving instructor trapped with chest and limb injuries.

The CareFlight's rapid response rescue helicopter was called. The crew took off and landed in a paddock beside the accident scene 17 minutes later.

CareFlight's specialist doctor and intensive care paramedic assisted the man while he remained in the vehicle



for about 40 minutes. Once safely extricated, he was airlifted to hospital in a stable condition.

The driver, the man's granddaughter, sustained minor injuries and was transported to hospital by road. ✕

Introducing Terrance the Train Driver Bear

For the first time ever, we offered our Facebook friends the chance to name the newest addition to the CareFlight Bear Family.

We were very impressed when Amy Luttrell introduced us to Terrance. Now it's our pleasure to let him introduce himself.

"Hi! Welcome aboard the Bear Express. I'm a big supporter of the

great crew at CareFlight since they rescued my daughter, Ballerina Renee. Every year as a thanks I invite the CareFlight crew on board my steam engine to enjoy a fun day out."

Terrance is now available to purchase for \$77.45. All proceeds help CareFlight save lives.

Please call 1800 631 678 to order your bear today. ✕



Do you have a real life CareFlight story?

We invite you to share your story, or that of a family member or friend, where our CareFlight team have come to the rescue.

CareFlight would love to share your inspiring story with our supporters to help raise awareness of our cause.

As a special memento, we have a Henry Pilot Bear keytag for the most interesting story.

Don't hold back, please share your story with us today! To send us a message, visit CareFlight.org/contact-us or get in touch on social media. ✕

Every cent helps keep CareFlight in the air

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Suburb

State Postcode

Email

Home Phone Mobile Phone

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- I would like more information on including a Bequest to CareFlight in my Will.
- Arrange a visit to the CareFlight base or for a speaker to visit your group.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Personal information is collected to process donations, issue tax receipts and send you updates. For these purposes, your information may be shared with trusted third parties and our service providers (and their directors, servants and agents) either in Australia or overseas. Failure to provide personal information may result in CareFlight being unable to provide you with certain information and offers. Our Privacy Policy can be located at www.careflight.org/privacy_statement/ and contains information about: (i) how you can access and correct your personal information; (ii) how you can lodge a complaint regarding the handling of your personal information; and (iii) how any complaint will be handled by CareFlight. You may contact our privacy officer with any queries via email: fundraisinginfo@careflight.org; or mail: Locked Bag 2002, Wentworthville NSW 2145; or telephone: (02) 9843 5100.

Please tick here if you do NOT want to receive future communications from CareFlight.

Occasionally we allow like-minded organisations to contact you with information that may be of interest to you, including some organisations located outside Australia. Those organisations allow us to do the same and this way we can reach more people with vital information.

Please tick here if you do NOT want to receive communications from organisations we trust.

Here is my single gift of:

\$25 \$35 \$55 Other \$



Yes, I would like to become a CareFlight Support Crew Member by giving:

\$20 a month \$30 a month \$50 a month Other \$

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- Option 2: Direct debit (Monthly donations only. An authorisation form will be sent to you)
- Option 3: Credit card: Mastercard Visa Amex Diners

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