

# CareFlight news

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## Helping patients through CareFlight – a dream job

As an emergency specialist at CareFlight, Dr Adam Sroor has been to some terrible accident scenes. His role means he's been able to help many people in their time of greatest need.

It is not only his patients who have benefited, but also their family members, neighbours and friends; the people who saw the accident and ran to help; those

Dr Sroor can be right there on scene and make a time-critical decision, or perform a crucial medical intervention, which saves someone's life.

He can take a hospital level of care, and the latest high-tech medical equipment, to the scene of an accident in minutes, to make sure the patient has the very best chance.

"I don't see myself as a hero –



The helicopter and patient arrive at Royal Darwin Hospital.

### Man airlifted after snake bite on camping trip

A 28-year-old man was airlifted from the Douglas Daly region after a suspected brown snake bite.

The man, who was camping in bush about 20 km from the nearest town, was on a walk when he was bitten by the deadly snake. Local Adelaide River Health Clinic staff drove directly to the remote location and transported the man to meet the CareFlight Top End rescue helicopter, which landed within an hour of taking the call.

CareFlight's doctor and flight nurse provided initial treatment at the scene. He was flown to Royal Darwin Hospital in a stable condition. ✕



who dragged an unresponsive child from a pool; or those performing CPR on a loved one, pleading for it to work.

"I can tell you that when the helicopter lands and our team arrives, an immediate sense of calm falls upon the scene. The CareFlight crew work swiftly and efficiently, knowing there are only seconds between life and death," Dr Sroor said.

One can only imagine the horror for a person who is powerless to act as a loved one dies before them.

"I don't have to imagine it, because I have lived it. I know the sense of helplessness you feel when there is no backup, no-one to step in, no trained professional to take over. It's the reason I do what I do today," Dr Sroor said.

It was after he tragically lost his own grandmother that he decided he wanted to work in emergency care. With no organisation like CareFlight to call upon, he performed CPR on her in the back seat of a car while she was rushed to hospital.

Today, working for CareFlight,

actually quite the opposite. I love my job. I feel incredibly privileged that I have been given the intensive training that enables me to do it."

For Dr Sroor, the real heroes in this story are the people who support the amazing work that CareFlight does, the people without whom "this service simply would not exist". ✕

Dr Adam Sroor, below, with a patient during a flight to hospital, and above, working with Ambulance paramedics on scene.





# Horse rider rescued from remote station on WA border

In a marathon nine hour mission, an 18-year-old woman was airlifted to hospital from a station near the border with Western Australia.

The woman was injured when she fell from her horse and it rolled over her at remote Bunda Station.

CareFlight's Top End rescue helicopter took off from Darwin at 3.30pm. The tasking came on an especially busy day for CareFlight, with our King Air aeroplanes transporting another 19 patients around the Top End.

The helicopter stopped to refuel at Kununurra before continuing on over the Kimberley region to the remote

location 178 km west of Lajamanu. It landed at 7pm.

The CareFlight doctor and nurse took over the care of the patient who had been receiving first aid from cattle station staff.

The woman was treated for suspected leg fractures and possible spinal injuries.

She was flown to Royal Darwin Hospital in a stable condition, shortly after midnight.

It was one of CareFlight's longest distance helicopter missions this year.

CareFlight operates the Top End Medical Retrieval Service on behalf of the Northern Territory Government. ✕

Above, the CareFlight Top End rescue helicopter at the scene. Below, flying over Lake Argyle in the Kimberley.



## Young rugby league player with spinal injury airlifted

A 14-year-old boy was flown to hospital after suffering spinal injuries in a tackle while playing rugby league.

CareFlight's rapid response rescue helicopter flew directly to Berkeley Vale, landing on the sports oval.

CareFlight's specialist doctor and critical care paramedic cared for the boy at the scene before he, along with his mother, was airlifted to hospital in a stable condition. ✕

## Construction worker critical after wall collapses

A 19-year-old man suffered critical head injuries when a double brick wall under construction fell on him.

Co-workers pulled the unconscious construction worker from underneath the pile of bricks, which collapsed during extremely windy conditions.

CareFlight's rapid response rescue helicopter landed at a vacant block near the residential building site

within 10 minutes of being called.

The CareFlight medical team joined Ambulance paramedics who were caring for the patient at the scene.

Our specialist doctor and critical care paramedic treated the man for critical head injuries, intubating him and placing him in an induced coma. The crew continued treating him in a road ambulance as he was taken to hospital in a critical condition. ✕



## Education: sharing life-saving skills around Australia

CareFlight's education team is continuously seeking better ways to prepare emergency medical practitioners for real world scenarios so they can save more lives. At the **2017 Australasian Simulation Congress** we shared knowledge and insights with the broader community through a live demonstration of our aeromedical helicopter simulator in a rescue scenario.



At the **Australian Medical Student Association (AMSA)** convention earlier this year - the largest of its type in the southern hemisphere - CareFlight provided theory lessons and skill stations, and simulated a multiple-casualty incident. Drawing on staff experiences, the CareFlight education team created an immersive environment that tested the ability of the 50 medical students to perform under stress. The event in Sydney drew thousands of delegates from across Australia for a week of learning.

CareFlight's **MediSim** team have been traveling around the country to provide local first responders with valuable extra skills in trauma care. Over the past couple of months they held workshops across South Australia, Western Australia and the Top End of the Northern Territory. Participants ranged from emergency services personnel and local clinic nurses to wonderful volunteers from all walks of life who are often the first to respond to medical emergencies in remote and regional areas. The training will help them save lives and speed recovery in their local communities. CareFlight is able to provide the workshops free of charge thanks to your support and donations. ✕



## Thank you for supporting CareFlight's recent events



This year's Top End CareFlight Gala Ball was a great success, with nearly 300 guests enjoying a glamorous night under the stars at Marrara Cricket Grounds in Darwin. Dancing the night away to much loved tunes played by the Australian Army Band, the community helped raise vital funds for CareFlight.



Help make a difference - get involved today

We are incredibly grateful to all those who generously give their time and donations to support CareFlight's vital operations. Please visit [www.careflight.org/events](http://www.careflight.org/events) to find out how you can participate in, attend or host an event.

Hundreds of cyclists and runners enjoyed a beautiful winter's day in the Blue Mountains when they took part in the 2017 Woodford to Glenbrook Classic in support of CareFlight. As they travelled the 25 km and 5 km courses of the spectacular bushland Oaks Trail, families and friends enjoyed community fair-style activities for the kids, food stalls and displays in the scenic Euroka Clearing before cheering on those finishing the race. ✕

CareFlight  
major partners



# Injured tourist rescued from Kakadu

**A** 70-year-old tourist was airlifted to hospital after she fell at the base of the iconic Jim Jim Falls in Kakadu National Park. The woman injured her leg in the fall.

The CareFlight Top End rescue helicopter flew a doctor and nurse

directly to the scene, winching them down to treat the woman.

The patient and her unharmed husband were then winched aboard the helicopter and flown to Royal Darwin Hospital. The woman arrived in a stable condition. ✕



## Presenting the bride and groom: Zoe and Bruce

It's our pleasure to introduce the latest bears to join the CareFlight family.

Zoe, a member of the CareFlight aircrew, joined the team the same day as Bruce, a CareFlight flight nurse, and it was love at first sight. It took a little while for Bruce to summon up the courage to ask Zoe out, but once he did, he couldn't wait to ask her to be his bride. ✕



Adopt a bear today for yourself or buy that special Christmas gift for just \$77.45 (inc P&H). Visit our website [www.careflight.org](http://www.careflight.org) or call 1800 631 678. Available December.

## Every cent helps keep CareFlight in the air

Title, First Name, Surname

Street Address

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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/](http://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](mailto: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 \$

By:

- Option 1: Cheque / Money Order (made payable to CareFlight)
- Option 2: Direct debit (Monthly donations only. An authorisation form will be sent to you)
- Option 3: Credit card:  Mastercard  Visa  Amex

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