



IMPACT REPORT 2023

Q1 & Q2 2023



MISSIONS NUMBERS



UP 5%
on the first 6 months of 2022



WE ARE SO GRATEFUL
for the support from our community



WE NEED TO RAISE
3.0 million dollars every year.

The first half of 2023 has been incredibly busy for the service with 610 missions, 313 from the Christchurch base and 297 from the Nelson base.

Our numbers are increasing year on year with mission numbers in the first six months of 2023 up 5% on 2022.



ADTEC COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

One of the challenges with the coordination of the NZ Flying Doctor Service is the ability to get all of the necessary parties together to discuss patients and map out the best patient care.

Currently this is a manual process involving a series of meetings and phone calls. Dr Neil Davidson, ICU Doctor and Clinical Lead for Air Retrieval, identified a system used in Australia called the 'Bureau Communications Centre Service' developed by ADTEC Communications as an option to improve the coordination process. Features of the service include the facility to enter rosters so clinicians can see who is available, a multi-call function so everyone can join and swap documents/charts, and recording all calls so they can be used for analysis and training.

The NZFD Service clinical team approached the Trust for support and a successful grant application through ARCS means the trial will go ahead.

The NZ Flying Doctor team work to pick up a patient from the home bases within an hour to transport them to another base/hospital. This technology will help facilitate and improve coordination between hospitals around New Zealand. This is a great step forward and is in line with the objective of providing equal health care to all New Zealanders.

TRAINING

IN HOUSE SIMULATOR

The build of our inhouse simulator is ongoing and we are thrilled to be able to support this project with funding from Air Rescue and Community Services (ARCS). The team aim to have the simulator completed in the very near future. This new equipment will allow our pilots to do extra training on the ground at the base with fantastic flow on benefits that include:

- Reducing flight times on aircraft, which will save maintenance, resource and other fleet costs
- Reducing our carbon footprint
- Reducing the need to take aircraft offline for training
- Increasing safety and awareness through practicing approaches into specific New Zealand airports
- Optimising captain and co-pilot interactions and procedures through more regular training
- Increasing the consistency of training, with the simulator modelled on existing NZFDS aircraft.



TRAINING

REGULAR TRAINING & CONFERENCES THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

Like the rescue helicopter crew the New Zealand Flying Doctor crew undergo essential, mandatory, regular training. Core training like the recent Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) is funded by Te Whatu Ora. The NZFDT provide support through community funding for additional training and attendance at aeromedical/clinical conferences.

It is great that through support from the community we are able to send three of the flight nurse team to the AERO MED



Australasia and FNA Conference in September, in Adelaide. The clinical crew heard from speakers from around the world, on best practice and new developments in the sector.

PLANES, SIMULATOR TRAINING IN AUSTRALIA

John, Tom and Rob completed their 6 monthly Operational Competency Check in combination with new avionic training for the new aircraft to shortly enter the fleet. The simulator is an impressive training tool enabling the ability to practice an array of normal and abnormal situations providing the crew with confidence and competence that is simply above and beyond what we can simulate in the real aircraft.



AEROMEDICAL CONFERENCE IN ADELAIDE

Three members of our flight nursing team were fortunate enough to attend the Aeromedical Conference in Adelaide this year. The 2.5-day conference was filled with presentations from all aspects of the aeromed sector, making for a fascinating and stimulating few days.

Some highlights for us were:

- Ben Lawton's presentation focused on the value of experiential learning. With limited exposure of clinical skills it is important to incorporate vicarious learning and sharing experiences. His presentation highlighted the importance of building relationships between rural and metropolitan hospitals to build social learning.
- Dr Dan Pronk's presentation on developing resilience in ourselves, as critical care workers. Dr Pronk worked in the Australian special forces and had excellent insights to share in this area.
- Several presenters spoke about aeromedical transfers in the disaster and emergency relief setting.
- High Acuity Low Outcome (HALO) events were also covered by several presenters and the importance of emergency action drills and preparation for these rare events. The implementation of training development in HEMS and Fixed wing retrievals was enlightening and replicable.
- Exciting developments in electronic health records gave us plenty of ideas around how we can manage our data better.
- Learning about aeromedical services in Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. This



AEROMEDICAL CONFERENCE IN ADELAIDE

included a truly inspiring presentation from Dr Barry Kirby on his organisation, The Hands of Rescue. It made us appreciate what we have here in NZ!

- There were plenty of exhibitors present throughout the entire conference. These ranged from medical equipment manufacturers (Zoll, Hamilton & Mindray) to safety equipment and clothing (Sisley) to more evolving technologies (Zoll drones & Vertii aircraft)
- A very interesting poster presented at the conference was the potential introduction of a Nurse Practitioners role within the aeromedical setting. This is a very interesting prospect for flight nursing as would increase the scope of practice that nurses could work under.



aeromedical services operations, and how we fit into the picture. We have also taken a number of ideas and concepts that could be applied into our practice to improve efficiency and patient care. It appears to be an exciting time in this field and we are looking forward to what comes next.

We have come away from the conference with a much better understanding of

Kendyl, Pete & Jodie

Thank You! Your generous support in 2023 helps us keep this vital service in the air!

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