

**NZ FLYING
DOCTOR SERVICE**



Q1/Q2 Impact Report

New Zealand Flying Doctor Trust

2025



When time is of the essence.

Q1/Q2 2025 Summary



Number of patients transferred
in the first half of 2025

704

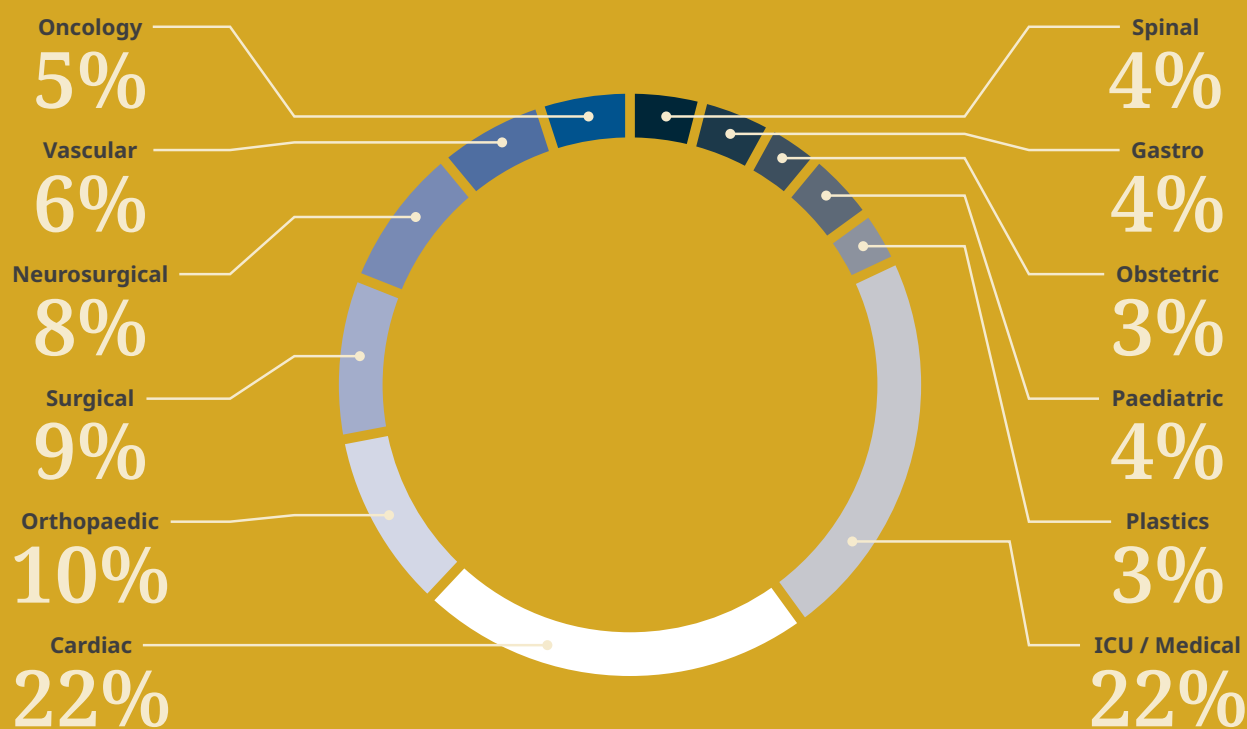


Nelson

404

Christchurch

300



To keep this 24/7 mobile intensive care unit flying, we need to raise

\$3 million every year

A welcome from our CEO

The New Zealand Flying Doctor Service is a quiet achiever. Many do not understand its true impact. The select few who truly know how vital this service is are often the ones who have found themselves, or their family, relying on it.

Every dollar donated to the New Zealand Flying Doctor Trust helps keep the service flying – and we've needed every cent of your support. With the centralisation of health services, the Flying Doctor Service continues to experience record demand.

For our communities, your support means we can be there when they need it most. When the Nelson Tasman region experienced the devastating floods

earlier this year, one of the Christchurch planes was relocated to Nelson to ensure the community there had immediate and expert access to healthcare.

Working closely with service operator GCH Aviation, the iconic blue and white Flying Doctor planes have supported more than 700 patients in the first half of this year.

We are also continuing to invest in the future, with the New Zealand Flying Doctor Trust supporting clinical team members from NICU, midwifery and ICU to attend the 2025 Aeromed Conference: 40 Years of Critical Care in the Air, being held in Hobart, Australia, in September this year.

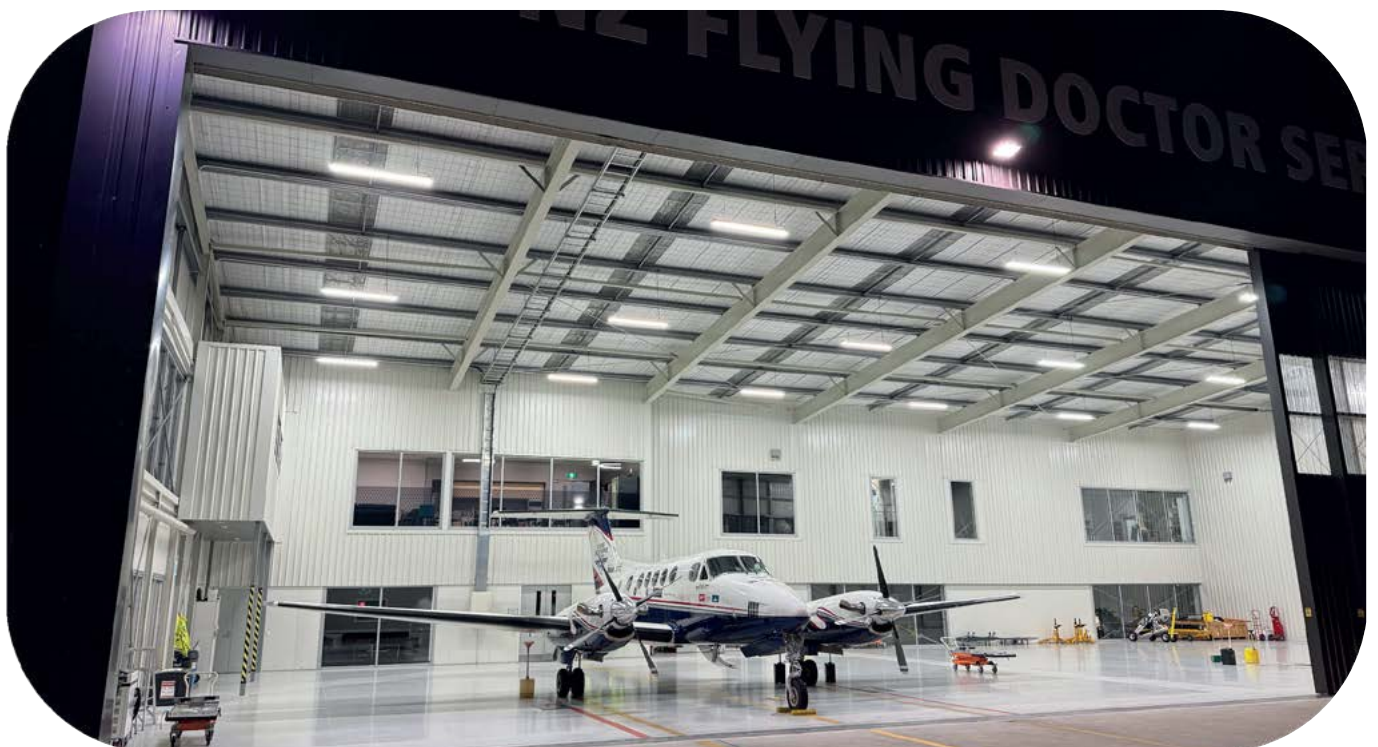
But the most significant news to share is what has been achieved, with your help, for our youngest and most fragile flyers with the purchase of two specialist external transport incubators. You can read about that project, and the difference it will make, in this report.

Thanks to your support, we are continually investing in our service, our fleet and our medical specialists so you can be safe in the knowledge that if you or a loved one needs our care in the air, we are there.



Christine Prince

CEO: New Zealand Flying Doctor Trust



SUPPORTING OUR YOUNGEST PATIENTS

The transport incubator project

The New Zealand Flying Doctor Service is responsible for providing safe transport and care to our most critically unwell babies, to ensure that they are in the best place possible to receive the intensive care and support they need.

An enormous thanks to our community, our Garden Party supporters, Air Rescue and Community Services (ARCS), the J.I. Urquhart Family Trust, and St Vianney's Timaru Trust, whose generosity has enabled the service to provide state-of-the-art care to the youngest travellers.

Thanks to this incredible support, the Trust raised the \$1 million required to purchase two NXTGen transport incubators. These transport incubators boast a specialist configuration to enable use in the air and have a range of advanced features including smart thermoregulation, built-in ventilators, heated mattresses and extended battery life.

The Trust has also purchased an Aeronox 2.0 nitric oxide delivery system, which is used for babies who have pulmonary hypertension and are often the most critically unwell babies in our care.



Neonatal Intensive Care Consultant Dr Dan Mackay with Neonatal Flight Nurses Cheryl Hanham and Belinda Jennings.

These high-tech incubators will play a vital role in transporting the South Island's most premature and critically ill newborns to specialist care at Christchurch Hospital. For babies who need the expertise of Starship Children's Hospital, these incubators will help make that journey smoother and safer.

But it doesn't stop there. Once a baby is strong enough, the incubators will also support their journey back to their home hospital, helping families stay closer to home and ensuring continuity of care.

"We try to keep babies as safe as possible while in flight and sometimes this can be tricky because of the altitude. It can be constant troubleshooting while in the plane. We need reliable equipment and we need everything on here that this little infant may need when they fly.

These new incubators are going to make such a difference for these tiny, vulnerable babies. I can't thank you enough for your support for these new incubators."

**Rosie Curtis, Clinical Nurse Specialist
in Advanced Neonatal Practice**





A glorious Garden Party

A stunning garden, beautiful food, live entertainment, and inspiring stories – the perfect setting for a garden party that showcased what true generosity and community are all about.

Held in March this year at a Fendalton property kindly loaned for the occasion, the Garden Party raised an incredible \$140,000 to help fund the purchase of two neonatal transport incubators which will be used to transport premature and critically ill babies.

Guests had the opportunity to meet pilots and

medical teams and hear firsthand how neonatal transfers are managed by the service. It was a powerful reminder of the 24/7 work carried out by the New Zealand Flying Doctor team.

Thank you to our fabulous hosts, as well as our Trustees Cilla Glasson and Charlotte Smith-Smulders, along with the 180 guests who gave generously through live and silent auctions. An enormous thanks also to our event sponsors, Canterbury Orthopaedic Services, St George's Hospital, and RD Petroleum.



Meet the team

The New Zealand Flying Doctor Service welcomed two new pilots over the last six months.



Winston Hutchinson

For the last three years Winston has been based in Wanaka flying for Southern Alps Air. We're delighted he's chosen to move north and bring his skills and experience to the New Zealand Flying Doctor team.

What are you most looking forward to at the NZ Flying Doctor Service?

"I'm really excited by the variety of work at the Flying Doctor Service and to be within a strong, positive team environment with such a great crew," says Winston. "It's also pretty special that I can do what I love while helping people at the same time."

Getting to know Winston

Aviation is a family affair for Winston - his dad is a helicopter pilot and his two brothers also work in the aviation industry.

When not flying, Winston loves anything that gets him into the outdoors, keeping physically and mentally fit. "I grew up on a sheep and beef station near the head of the Rakaia so I love heading back there or getting out jetboating," Winston says.



Josh Grice

What attracted you to the NZ Flying Doctor Service?

"I was looking for the next challenge in my aviation career, and I can't think of a better one than working under time-critical circumstances where the work we do can make a real difference in people's lives," Josh says.

What are you most looking forward to in this role?

"Working as part of a close-knit team in a highly dynamic and professional environment," he says. "And of course, flying the King Air."

Getting to know Josh

Outside of work, Josh maintains a high level of physical fitness, a necessity given the demands of his role. "Staying fit is important to me and to the job, so I make exercise a regular part of my routine."

He's also passionate about motorsports and enjoys spending time on or around the water when he's off duty. "Waterskiing, wakeboarding, if it's on the water, I'm in," he says.

Planes on the move

The Trust's purchase of two John Deere tractors in April this year makes light work for the team as they move the New Zealand Flying Doctor Service planes in and out of the hangars.



The view from the frontline



“I’m so grateful.”

Val recently visited the New Zealand Flying Doctor service and gave a donation to the Trust. This is her story.

Val doesn't remember much about her accident, or the weeks after, but she remembers the comfort of the New Zealand Flying Doctor Service.

“Oh, they did a wonderful job. They kept checking in on me, asking if I was warm and if I needed anything. I felt so comfortable in their care.”

Val Beattie was transferred on the New Zealand Flying Doctor Service from Christchurch Hospital to Dunedin Hospital for specialist rehabilitation after a brain bleed.

It had all started three weeks prior, when Val fell from the porch of her son and daughter-in-law's house.

“I remember the gentleman from St John saying ‘Val, we think you’ve got a brain bleed.’ I remember being put into an ambulance and going to the emergency department, and that’s the last thing I remember for three weeks.”

Those three weeks were spent at Christchurch Hospital, after which Val travelled on the New Zealand Flying Doctor Service to Dunedin for specialist rehabilitation.

After eight weeks in Dunedin, Val was back on the New Zealand Flying Doctor Service plane returning home.

She says she feels very blessed.

“I have a wonderful husband Karl who looks after me – he’s just brilliant - and I have my children and grandchildren in my life.

“I know many people pass away from a brain bleed so I feel very lucky to be alive.

“St John and Christchurch Hospital did such a good job and I’m so grateful to the New Zealand Flying Doctor Service for the incredible care they gave me. They are just wonderful.”



Your generous support helps keep this vital service in the air.

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