on station with
Air Ambulance

THE STAFF AT AIR AMBULANCE SAY:
Working at Air Ambulance is one of the most rewarding nursing jobs in Health. Flight nursing is a rare experience which challenges your professional limits, knowledge and adaptability. The view from the aircraft is great for the senses, compared to a hospital environment. You never know where you’ll go, who you’ll meet, what you’ll see and when you will get home.

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON JOBS AT AIR AMBULANCE?
Acute cardiac patients make up around a third of our work. The cardiac patients that we are moving require interventional coronary angiography if they don’t have access to a regional cardiac cath lab or cardiac surgical services. It is not uncommon to manage a cardiac patient on a number of infusions, and then in the adjacent bed have a patient from the next town being transported for cancer investigation or treatment. Trauma takes up about 10 per cent and probably the most challenging conditions to manage, when you consider the physiological changes to a patient when they’re taken in an aircraft. We regularly transfer less complex patients for nursing home placement, babies returning closer to home and high risk obstetric patients. Only one percent of patients per day.

WHAT IS THE MOST MEMORABLE JOB?
Squeezing a third or fourth patient into the aircraft so they won’t be left behind until the next day and taking a palliative patient home, who dies soon after landing.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT WORKING AT AIR AMBULANCE?
The many different working environments that we experience day in and day out – from the base to the aircraft, into the hospitals and flying to different destinations. Also all the different people you meet and the challenges you face. It’s great to meet paramedics from all around the state. Flights to Lord Howe Island are popular, which average about one per month. The most memorable areas to fly are the patch of canola, green fields and Patterson’s Curves between Albury and Wagga Wagga and the Griffith rice fields, orchards and water channels for agricultural sights; Merimbula, Moruya, Coffs Harbour for the mountains, surf and coast; Cooma or Orange for the snow; and Armidale for the frost and chilly winds.

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THE TOURIST BROCHURE SAYS:
Mascot is a suburb in south-eastern Sydney, located seven kilometres south of the Sydney CBD and is the administrative centre of the City of Botany Bay. It has a mixture of residential, commercial and industrial areas. Mascot is on the north-west side of Botany Bay and contains Sydney’s principal airport Kingsford Smith International Airport, which takes up a large part of the suburb.

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