



**5 April 2007**

## **Ambulance Coordinates Life & Death Dash**

Ambulance has been furiously busy overnight, coordinating a life & death transfer of a critically ill woman from Newcastle to Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney.

A 22yo veterinarian from Newcastle was admitted to the Mater Hospital in Newcastle yesterday suffering worsening respiratory problems. Late last night, Ambulance was contacted to coordinate the urgent transfer of the young woman to the Intensive Care Unit of RPA.

The Medical Retrieval Unit and Ambulance Operation Centres in Sydney and Newcastle were involved in a carefully coordinated transfer operation.

Ambulance arranged for the one of their major incident buses to transfer the extensive medical retrieval team from RPA to the Mater Hospital.

Following the arrival of the retrieval team, the condition of the woman worsened considerably and it was thought that the transfer would have to be cancelled. With the woman's lungs failing, the combined teams from the Mater & RPA made the decision to place the patient on a lung bypass machine.

With the transfer looking unlikely to go ahead, the Medical Retrieval Unit of the Ambulance Service was contacted and was able to suggest that the patient could be transferred using one of the service's Multi-Purpose Vehicles.

The MPVs are fully equipped intensive care paramedic ambulances designed to accommodate larger patients but are able to be used for a wide range of tasks. The MPVs are large enough and have appropriate power and oxygen outlets to permit the patient, extensive medical equipment and key members of retrieval teams to be transported.



## Ambulance Service of New South Wales

# media release

This morning, the critically ill woman, and the entire medical retrieval team of six people, were loaded into the MPV and began the journey to Sydney.

Four medical specialists, including an intensive care specialist, an anaesthetist, perfusionist, and cardio-thoracic surgeon joined nursing specialists and ambulance officers Malcolm Knight and George Keane for the 160km journey.

The MPV arrived at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital shortly before 1130am this morning following a successful and uneventful journey.

The woman was transferred into the Intensive Care Unit at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital where she remains in a critical condition.

**PHOTOGRAPH:** The attached photograph shows the critically ill woman arriving at RPA in the care of ambulance officer and a medical retrieval team.

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For further information or local media opportunities please contact Ambulance Media on (02) 9320 7796.