



10 August 2007

Rescue Helicopter Rosters Unchanged

Current reporting on the staffing of the Air Ambulance helicopter located at Bankstown are misinformed and incorrect.

The facts are:

- The rostered staffing for retrieval doctors and paramedics at the new Air Ambulance helicopter base at Bankstown airport remain unchanged.
- The rostering module for the Bankstown helicopter base is exactly the same as the roster used by the previous helicopter contractors.
- We have improved the way we do business - an additional paramedic has been added to the roster.
- The enhanced helicopters are each staffed by a doctor and paramedic who are both experienced in retrieval medicine. Two additional crews are on-call 24hrs a day to supplement the service.
- Not all of the life-saving retrieval missions require a helicopter response - some patients' conditions preclude travel by air.
- If the helicopter doctor /paramedic crew is sent on a road retrieval an on-call helicopter doctor /paramedic crew attends Bankstown base to respond to any helicopter missions that may occur.
- The new helicopters are bigger and capable of carrying two patients and or patients who, because of weight restrictions, could not have been carried in the previously contracted helicopters.
- The larger helicopters also mean that the doctor /paramedic crew can carry extra medical equipment to assist the patients they attend.



Ambulance Service of New South Wales

media release

- The new helicopter service has also brought enhanced reliability to the Service. In July this year, the new service saw a total of 42hrs helicopter downtime through scheduled and unscheduled maintenance. This is significant improvement on July 2006 where rescue helicopters were off-line for 168hrs under the previous helicopter operators.

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