

NSW SENDS EXPERT STAFF TO HELP SAMOA

1 October 2009

Premier Nathan Rees today farewelled NSW emergency service personnel departing for Samoa as part of the tsunami relief effort.

A 30 strong team of doctors, nurses, paramedics and fire brigade officers from across NSW left from Richmond airbase this morning.

The relief team assembled at Ambulance Headquarters at Rozelle this morning for a briefing before leaving for Samoa.

"Our deepest sympathies are with the victims and their families both overseas and here at home," said Mr Rees.

"We have some of the most highly skilled and dedicated health personnel in Australia.

"On behalf of NSW, I thank all of our service men and women who put up their hands to help our neighbours in their time of need.

"Once again some of our most experienced professionals will help with the relief effort after the devastation caused by these natural disasters."

Public health specialists trained in emergency medicine and anaesthetics will be supported by nurses and paramedics.

"The NSW Government responded to a formal request by the Commonwealth for Samoan assistance and are standing ready if further help is needed in Indonesia," said Mr Rees.

"It is expected that the tsunami relief team will be deployed up to ten days before being reassessed," said Mr Rees.

The State Emergency Operations centre will remain in contact with Emergency Management Australia to co-ordinate any further requests or assistance on behalf of NSW authorities.

Personnel were drawn from across NSW including:

Fire Brigade	4 Urban Search and Rescue Officers
Ambulance	Director Medical Retrieval (Medical Commander)
Ambulance	2 Special Casualty Access Paramedics (SCAT)
Ambulance	2 Special Operations Intensive Care Paramedics
Sydney South West	General surgeon
Sydney South West	Anaesthetics
Sydney South West	Intensive Care Unit Nurse
Sydney South West	2 Emergency Department Nurses
Northern Sydney Central Coast	Emergency staff specialist
Northern Sydney Central Coast	Anaesthetics
Northern Sydney Central Coast	Disaster Coordinator Nurse
Northern Sydney Central Coast	Theatre Nurse
Northern Sydney Central Coast	2 Emergency Department Nurses
Sydney West	Emergency Department Senior Registrar Paediatrics
Sydney West	2 Emergency Department Nurses
Sydney West	General surgeon
Sydney West	Emergency Department Specialist
Sydney West	2 Theatre Nurses
Sydney West	Public Health Physician
Greater Western	Public Health Physician
Sydney South West	Emergency Department