



9 October 2009

NSW tsunami relief team returns from Samoa

Mr Paul McLeay, Member for Heathcote, representing Carmel Tebbutt Deputy Premier, Minister for Health today welcomed home the NSW emergency service personnel from the NSW tsunami relief effort.

“On behalf of the people of NSW, I would like to thank the highly skilled and dedicated men and woman of our emergency services for an outstanding effort.

‘As part of the relief effort NSW public health specialists have worked closely with the Samoan Ministry of Health to establish disease surveillance and environmental health infrastructure monitoring in affected villages. The outbreak of disease is always of major concern to health authorities in these situations and I commend them on an excellent job, Mr McLeay said.

“Apart from helping to stem the outbreak of disease other dedicated members of the NSW team including, surgeons, emergency doctors, nurses, paramedics worked alongside Victorian and NZ teams and local health authorities, sometimes under adverse conditions treating the sick and injured.

“NSW fire brigade officers provided the much needed sustainability support to the medical team.

“I am very proud that the 33 highly qualified men and women of the NSW emergency services have once again been willing participants in rendering assistance to our neighbours in their hour of need.

We have now handed over support operations to incoming teams whose focus will be to work with the Medical Director National Health and the Ministry of Health on re-establishing local health services for the Samoan people, said Mr McLeay

The team arrived at Mascot from Samoa on a commercial flight and were greeted by health and fire officials along family and friends.

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