

New Network for Helicopter Retrieval



Health

The NSW Government is creating a modern new Helicopter Retrieval Network. The plan provides for doctors on every flight with bases that operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The new Network will deliver high quality clinical care faster and safer than ever before. Patients will now go directly to the best hospital to meet their clinical requirements. Retrieval staffing numbers will be increased. Staff will now be physically located on all bases.

The plan was developed with wide consultation. The new Helicopter Network will have a Northern NSW and Southern NSW Super Region and help meet the growing demand for retrieval, which is expected to increase by 23 per cent over the next 10 years, from 3339 missions in 2011 to over 4000 missions per year by 2023. This plan will deliver better value for money for the taxpayer.

A Modern New Network

The new Network will provide:

- ▶ Patients will have faster care with reduced retrieval times
- ▶ Having staff on the base means take-off will be between 15 and 30 minutes quicker
- ▶ Bases that operate 24 hrs a day / 7 days a week
- ▶ Doctors available for every flight
- ▶ More retrieval doctors (11.5 FTE)
- ▶ More retrieval paramedics (18 FTE)
- ▶ More paramedics available for on road ambulances
- ▶ Regional health strengthened - retrieval to new and upgraded facilities
- ▶ New emergency retrieval ambulance located on the Newcastle base
- ▶ \$151.2M investment including \$39.1M new funding over the next three years
- ▶ Single Retrieval Network coordination phone line
- ▶ Procurement fast tracked so that operators can plan ahead
- ▶ Better value for the taxpayer

Wollongong Helicopter Base

In 2011 over 400 people were cared for using helicopter retrieval services. A new single Super Region is planned for Southern NSW with Orange, Sydney (Bankstown and Westmead (NETS)) and Wollongong working together with SouthCare which is the joint NSW and ACT government helicopter retrieval service based in Canberra.

The Wollongong Base will see:

- ▶ Medical and paramedical staff located on Base improving time to take off
- ▶ 24 hours per day, 7 days per week operation
- ▶ Dedicated retrieval doctors available for every flight
- ▶ Paramedics dedicated to helicopter retrieval
- ▶ Improved training for staff
- ▶ Facility improvements to bring retrieval staff and helicopter facilities closer together which will help get the helicopter off the ground quicker when responding to an emergency

Our plan provides for:

