

Life Flight
Saves time · Saves lives
50 years
...and counting

**1,835
LIVES
YOU
SAVED
THIS
YEAR**



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2026**

Greetings

I am pleased to present Life Flight's 2025–2026 Annual Report, a year that marks a very special milestone: 50 years of Life Flight saving lives across New Zealand and 50 years of incredible support from the community that has made it all possible.

Over those five decades, more than 43,000 people have received the critical care they needed through Life Flight. Behind every number is a person, a family and a community whose lives have been changed.

Life Flight's vision has become a vital part of New Zealand's emergency healthcare system, and demand for our services continues to grow. Over the next decade, an estimated 20,000 more people will need to be flown by Life Flight's Air Ambulance Planes and Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

Meeting that demand safely and equitably is at the heart of what we do. Life Flight's highly skilled flight crews and specialist aeromedical teams provide that care when time matters most, transporting critically ill and injured patients safely to the hospitals best equipped to treat them.

This year, the opening of our purpose-built Waikato base was a significant achievement. It strengthens our ability to provide rapid access to aeromedical care across the Waikato and beyond, helping ensure that people in regional and rural communities can access the same level of specialist care as those in our major centres.



None of this would be possible without the generosity of our supporters. Every donation, grant and sponsorship helps keep Life Flight operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. To everyone who has supported us over the past year - thank you. You are an essential part of the Life Flight team and, ultimately, help make it possible for us to be there when people need us most.

This is my final Annual Report as Chair of Life Flight. After seven years, I am stepping away from a role and an organisation of which I am immensely grateful to have been part of. Life Flight has continued to innovate and grow, while never losing sight of its purpose: providing safe, equitable and life-saving care to people across New Zealand when they need it most.

I leave with enormous confidence in Life Flight's future and deep gratitude to our staff, flight crews, clinical teams, supporters, partners and volunteers. Together, you ensure that Life Flight can continue to meet the changing needs of communities across the country, providing safe, equitable, compassionate, life-saving care when it is needed most.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Stone'.

Richard Stone
LIFE FLIGHT CHAIR

Welcome

It's been another busy year of aeromedical flying at our bases in Wellington and Hamilton with our total flying up around 8% year-on-year as we celebrated Life Flight's 50th birthday in December 2025. Peter Button and Dr Russell Worth started the aeromedical service that's grown to become The Life Flight Trust half-a-century ago, and I hope that they'd both be very proud of our current day teams that continue to help transfer people in need across Central New Zealand and beyond, 24/7, 365-days-a-year.

It was therefore very fitting that in September we welcomed ZK-IXS, our brand new, state-of-the-art Airbus H145 D3 Westpac Rescue Chopper into service in the capital. This new technology-packed helicopter means that our highly skilled rotary-wing Flight Teams can undertake even more life-saving missions in the challenging flying conditions that they often encounter the bottom of the North Island and the top of the South.

Five of our six Beechcraft King Air B200C Air Ambulance Planes are now in service across both of our North Island bases, with our sixth airframe, ZK-LFM, due to join the fleet in mid-2026, following the completion of engine overhaul and refurbishment maintenance work at our MRO partner Fieldair Engineering's facility in Palmerston North. Our



“ As we continue to fly more missions every year, the support of the local communities that we serve remains invaluable and helps to keep our aeromedical service fit-to-fly at all times of the day and night every day of the year. ”



fixed-wing fleet provides New Zealand's leading bariatric air ambulance transfer capability, courtesy of extra-wide cargo doors and automated patient loading devices being standard equipment across all of our aircraft. This allows us to safely transfer patients weighing up to 275kgs, with our expanding fleet of patient transfer vehicles, or PTVs, also featuring powerlifter stretchers as standard, to help ensure that we can provide a seamless bed-to-bed service for all of our ICU and Neonatal ICU inter-hospital patient transfers.

continued on next page

We also officially opened our Hamilton fixed-wing aeromedical base in February, with Hon Simeon Brown MP, Minister for Health, joining us to celebrate our expansion into The Waikato. Our Flight Teams up north continue to be busy servicing the wider Waikato and Bay of Plenty region, and it's likely, based on their current levels of flying, that we'll look to locate a 2nd Air Ambulance Plane in Hamilton at some point in the next 12-18 months.

Teamwork, as always, is key to pretty much everything we do here at Life Flight, and we'll be looking to add additional Fundraising, Marketing & Communications Team resources locally in Hamilton to support our Flight Teams based in The Waikato. Our fundraising performance over the past 12 months has once again been exceptional, with the team securing almost \$11M of fundraising income during the year. As we continue to fly more missions every year, the support of the local communities that we serve remains invaluable and helps to keep our aeromedical service fit-to-fly at all times of the day and night every day of the year. This continuing generosity quite literally enables us to save more time and save more lives than ever before.

Finally, I'd like to say a huge thank you to our retiring Chair, Richard Stone, who's stepping down from leading our Board of Trustees after seven-and-a-half years.



Richard's overseen significant change since joining Life Flight back at the start of 2019, and we've more than doubled the number of missions that we fly each year under his guidance. Our fleet of specialist aircraft has been upgraded and expanded, and we've also spread our aeromedical wings into the Waikato. Richard's also been a very visible presence around our bases, and both our Flight Teams and our Support Teams are going to miss him popping in regularly to check on how we're going. Personally, I feel very fortunate to have had Richard's support and encouragement throughout my time as Life Flight's CEO - I started in my role just a month after he joined our Board - and it's been an absolute pleasure to work alongside him during that time.

Mark Johnston
LIFE FLIGHT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This report is for the financial period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

Our vision

| To provide exceptional care in the air

Our purpose

| We help to save lives by providing
outstanding aeromedical care
and transport to people in need

Our culture

| Our **teamwork** saves lives

| **Safety** underpins everything we do

| We **support** each other to help those in need

| We find **new ways** to be “best in class”

Our strategy in action

Your support enables us to put our vision and purpose into action. Here are just some of the ways your generosity has helped deliver on our strategy over the past year.

OUR TEAMWORK SAVES LIVES

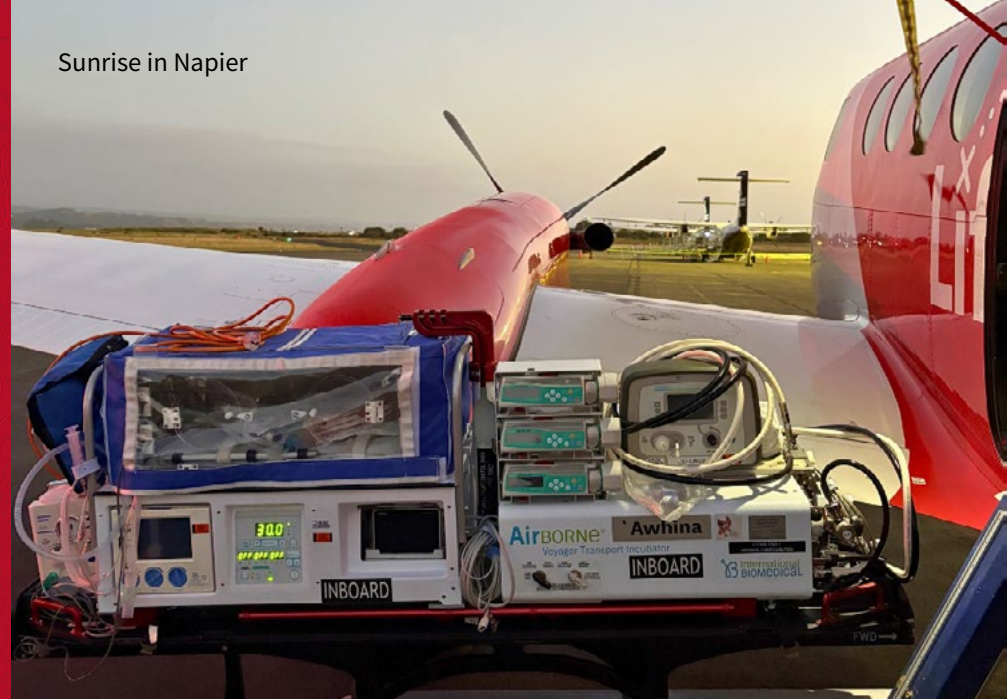
What does it take to fly a baby to Waikato's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit? A lot of specialised equipment, and even more specialised skills.

That's why our Hamilton Base Manager, Ricky, recently led a training session for Waikato Hospital's flight nurses and doctors. Working together, these teams provide intensive care for some of the smallest and most fragile patients during transport.

Training like this is essential to ensuring newborns receive the safest possible care in the air. It's also an example of how teamwork saves lives - bringing together the expertise of pilots, medical teams and support staff to give babies the best possible start.

Your support makes this training possible. Thank you for helping us keep our crews prepared and ready when every moment matters.

Sunrise in Napier



WE FIND NEW WAYS TO BE “BEST IN CLASS”

Our Air Ambulance Planes have modifications that let us do something many can't; they can land on grass runways. This isn't just a technical detail – it can be the difference between life and death for people in remote communities far from one of the country's five tertiary hospitals.

Because our planes can land where many others can't, we can reach patients quickly and get them to the time-critical care they need. But we can only do this because of you. Your support keeps these planes flying, keeps our crews ready, and keeps lifesaving missions possible - whether it's on Wellington Airport's sealed runway or a remote grass landing strip.



Pilot James uses Night Vision Goggles improving visibility

SAFETY UNDERPINS EVERYTHING WE DO

One of the biggest game-changers for our Westpac Rescue Helicopter Pilots is something called IFR (Instrument Flight Rules). Flying under IFR means the helicopter can be safely flown using just the instruments and navigation equipment on board the helicopter, so the pilots don't have to be able to see outside apart from take-off and landing.

That's why the H145's advanced cockpit is so important. With larger windows, a collision warning system, and a modern weather radar, our pilots have better visibility, even in the most challenging conditions. This is particularly important during missions involving winch rescues or night flights.



Your support makes this training possible. Thank you for helping us keep our crews prepared and ready when every moment matters.



A new chapter for the **Westpac Chopper**

Wellington's new Airbus H145 Westpac Rescue Helicopter was officially unveiled in October - marking a major leap forward for emergency care and a proud moment for the community that keeps it flying.

The H145 came into service in September and immediately it proved its worth – flying in conditions that would have been beyond the capabilities of the much-loved BK-117 aircraft it replaced. The new generation of Westpac Rescue Helicopter has strengthened emergency response across the lower North and upper South Islands, supporting around 400 emergency missions each year and helping crews deliver critical care when every second counts.

The unveiling, at our Wellington base, was attended by Associate Health Minister Hon Casey Costello, Green MP Julie Anne Genter, and incoming Wellington Mayor Andrew Little, together with the helicopter crew and key supporting partners.

PHOTO CREDIT:
NZMW Aviation

H145 Westpac Chopper

“Thousands of New Zealanders work together to fund essential costs. We’re proud to put it to work on behalf of the community”

— LIFE FLIGHT CHIEF EXECUTIVE MARK JOHNSTON.

“Our Emergency Air Ambulance Helicopter Service plays a critical role in enabling time-sensitive care for people in urgent need,” Associate Health Minister Casey Costello said. “The new H145 will provide safer and more reliable care to patients when time matters most. It reflects the Government’s commitment to ensuring the right care is available at the right time, no matter where people live.”

The purchase of the new Westpac Rescue Helicopter was jointly funded by Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora and ACC New Zealand, as part of a nationwide fleet upgrade that ensures safer, faster and more reliable emergency responses across the country.

The service itself operates through a mixed-funding model, combining government funding with corporate sponsorship, grants and thousands of donations from the community - from school fundraisers to gifts in Wills.

This partnership is what keeps the Westpac Chopper flying. Westpac’s continued support, together with the generosity of donors, funders and the community, helps cover the equipment, training, fuel and other critical costs needed to operate the service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No patient is ever charged.



“Thousands of New Zealanders work together to fund essential costs. We’re proud to put it to work on behalf of the community,” says Life Flight Chief Executive Mark Johnston.

The H145 brings state-of-the-art technology, greater safety and more cabin space to care for patients in their most critical moments. Its quieter engines, enhanced navigation systems and superior visibility are crucial advantages when operating in Wellington’s famously changeable weather or rugged terrain.

For people like seven-year-old Jason, the impact is life-changing. After a severe allergic reaction left him unresponsive and fighting for his life, the Westpac Chopper was airborne within minutes, getting him the urgent medical help that he needed. Jason recovered after a scary 24 hours and is today thriving.

The Airbus H145 Westpac Rescue Helicopter, with Search and Rescue Services Limited as Life Flight’s Air Operator partner, operates from the base at Wellington International Airport - ready to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A new home for **Life Flight Waikato**

In February, we officially unveiled our new purpose-built Waikato centre at Hamilton Airport, marking an important milestone in aeromedical care for the region and beyond.

The official reveal was led by local iwi Ngaati Hauaa, who provided a beautiful mihi whakatau and showed their support for Life Flight's growing presence in the Waikato. Hon. Simeon Brown, Minister of Health, unveiled the plaque and recognised the extraordinary commitment of frontline teams across Aotearoa New Zealand.

The new facility, built by Hamilton Airport, provides a permanent base for Life Flight's Air Ambulance Planes, enabling critically ill and injured patients to receive world-class aeromedical treatment on route to specialist care at Waikato Hospital and other regional centres. For rural communities, that can mean accessing lifesaving treatment in minutes instead of hours. Over this last year 401 patients have been flown from the Waikato base.

A significant upgrade from our previous hangar accommodation, the new base reflects the growing demand for Life Flight's services and our commitment to ensuring people can access lifesaving care, wherever they live.

The event brought together supporters, partners and members of the community to celebrate this significant milestone - made possible through the generosity and commitment of those who help keep Life Flight flying.



ABOVE: Tumohe Clarke, Ngaati Hauaa and Mark Johnston, Life Flight Chief Executive



ABOVE: Hon. Simeon Brown Minister of Health meets Life Flight aeromedical staff (from left) Pernal Samy, Luke Rohloff, John Jenje, Jenny Wallace



BELOW: Mark Johnston Life Flight Chief Executive, Hon. Simeon Brown Minister of Health, Richard Stone Life Flight Chair

Meet Ardie

Born at just 27 weeks, baby Ardie urgently needed specialist care in Wellington - and thanks to the generosity of Life Flight supporters, help was ready.

Julia was 27 weeks pregnant when she was admitted to Hawke's Bay Hospital. Although her tests were reassuring, everything changed overnight. She suddenly began bleeding, and just 15 minutes later, Ardie was born.

"It was that fast. I was in shock," Julia recalls.

Born far too early, Ardie was critically ill and needed immediate transfer to Wellington Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Because of donations from supporters, Life Flight was there when every minute counted.

Not long after returning home, Ardie developed a life-threatening infection and once again needed urgent transport back to Wellington. Thanks to the continued support of generous donors, Life Flight's Air Ambulance crew was there for him.

"They always let you know what was happening. They supported you and kept you calm. You knew your baby was in safe hands," says Julia.



Ardie with parents
Julia and Fergus

"They always let you know what was happening. They supported you and kept you calm. You knew your baby was in safe hands"

— JULIA

In total, Ardie flew on four Life Flight missions between Hawke's Bay and Wellington. For Julia and Fergus, knowing their son could access the specialist care he needed gave them hope during the most frightening time of their lives.

Today, Ardie is a happy, healthy, thriving young boy.

Missions made possible

by you



1,835
PATIENTS FLOWN

775
PATIENT SUPPORT
WHĀNAU FLOWN

312
BABIES/CHILDREN FLOWN

Connecting patients with **specialist care**

Life Flight's Air Ambulance Planes are a vital link between communities and specialist healthcare. But the strength of our fixed-wing service extends well beyond the aircraft themselves. Behind every mission is a highly coordinated network of aircraft, crews, medical teams, ground transport, airfields, technology and operational expertise - working together to safely move patients when time matters most.

During 2025/26, we continued to strengthen this network, expanding our operational footprint, developing new capabilities and investing in the people and infrastructure that support every mission. Together, these developments are helping Life Flight provide greater access to specialist care, more options for patients and greater resilience as demand for our service continues to grow.

Thank you to our supporters - because of you, our Air Ambulance Planes flew over 1400 patients this year, helping them to reach the critical medical care that they needed.

Patient transfer vehicle meets an Air Ambulance Plane in Hamilton.



Road ambulances and patient transfer vehicles

Life Flight has dedicated road ambulances and patient transfer vehicles positioned at our Wellington and Hamilton bases, as well as in Gisborne and Masterton. Having these vehicles readily available gives us greater control over the complete patient journey between hospital and aircraft, helping to save valuable time and reducing our reliance on St John and Wellington Free Ambulance resources. It also helps keep local emergency ambulances available to respond within their communities.

The ambulances are equipped with automated electric stretcher loading systems, reducing manual handling and providing additional capability for complex transfers, including bariatric patients and incubators where patient and equipment weights can make conventional loading difficult.



King Air B200C at Hamilton Airport

Aircraft fleet

Life Flight operated five King Air B200C aircraft during the 2025/26 financial year, providing a common aircraft platform across our Wellington and Hamilton operations.

A sixth B200C is due to join the operational fleet in the first quarter of 2026/27, adding further capacity and resilience as demand for the service continues to grow.

Together, these aircraft strengthen the reach and resilience of Life Flight's Air Ambulance Planes service, providing more options to reach patients and connecting communities with specialist healthcare across New Zealand.

Grass airstrip capability

Life Flight has continued to develop the King Air B200C's grass airstrip capability since its introduction in December 2022, with flight crews maintaining the capability through simulator training and competency assessments.

The capability provides access to key regional airfields including Taumarunui, as well as potential access to locations such as Kaikohe, Whitianga, Matamata and Ashburton. Requests to use grass airstrips are assessed on a case-by-case basis due to the additional operational considerations involved.

During 2025/26, Life Flight completed three missions through Taumarunui, including its first high-acuity patient mission from the airfield. Fixed-wing plane access provides another option, particularly where range, weather, payload or patient requirements such as bariatric transfers, may limit helicopter operations.



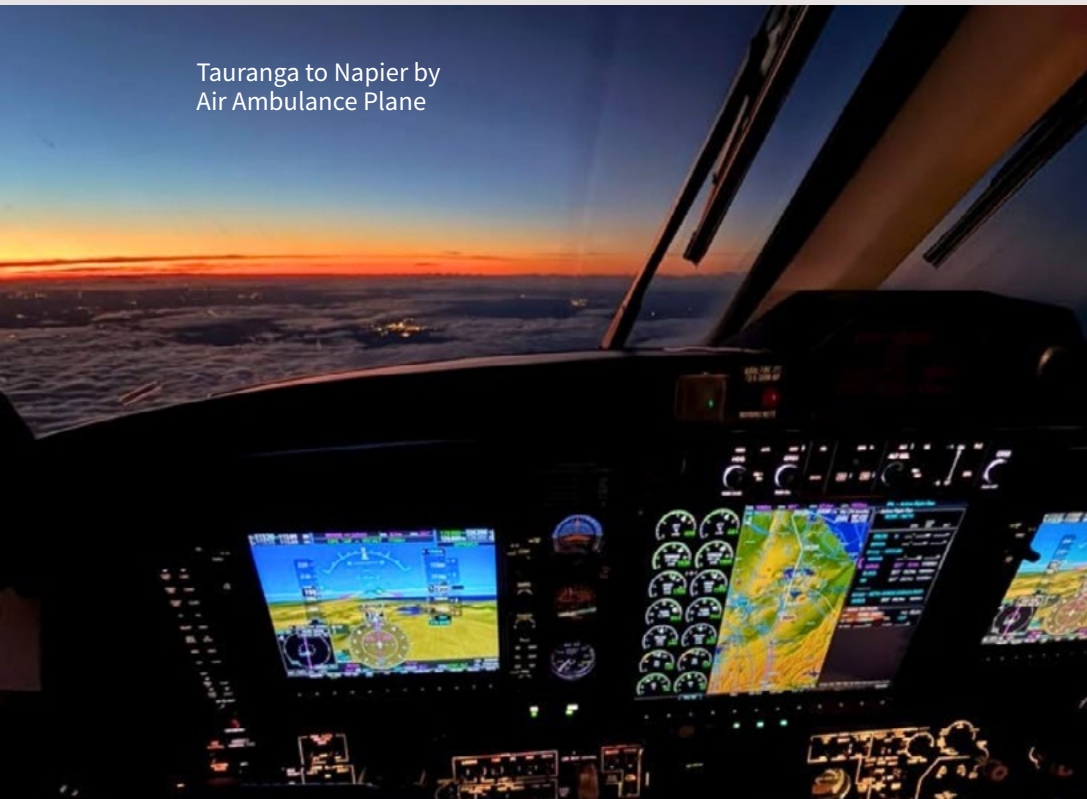
King Air B200C on grass runway

Flight simulator

Full-flight simulator training allows Life Flight pilots to safely practise emergency, abnormal and demanding operational scenarios that cannot realistically be reproduced in the aircraft.

Flight crews maintain their operational capability through simulator training and competency assessments, supporting consistent standards across the pilot group and specialised capabilities such as grass airstrip operations. Simulator training also reduces the need to use operational aircraft for training, helping keep them available for missions.

Tauranga to Napier by
Air Ambulance Plane



New airfields and a changing footprint

Taumarunui was a significant new airfield added to Life Flight's operational footprint during 2025/26, with three missions during the year, including the first high-acuity patient transfer.

More broadly, the Hamilton base continues to change Life Flight's traditional operating footprint. Hamilton flying hours increased by 22% over the previous year, while Wellington increased by 30%.

The Hamilton - Gisborne connection is now Life Flight's third-busiest pairing, with 114 missions through Gisborne during the year, while New Plymouth has also become one of the top ten destinations served from Hamilton. This demonstrates how the additional base is extending Air Ambulance Plane access across the central and upper North Island.

Operational Control Centre

The Operational Control Centre (OCC) is the central coordination point connecting hospitals, aircraft, flight crews, medical teams and ground transport throughout every Air Ambulance Plane patient mission.

The OCC is effectively the cog in the system. From the initial booking, it coordinates the transfer requirements and resources, provides the link between hospitals and operational teams, monitors crews and mission progress, manages changes and keeps everyone updated through to completion.

As the number and complexity of callouts has grown, this central coordination has become increasingly important in bringing together the many moving parts of a patient transfer and making the journey as seamless as possible.

Equipped for the job



Westpac Chopper crew in immersion suits ahead of a training exercise.

Immense thanks to our Trust and Foundation funders and our dedicated community of supporters. Your generosity has enabled us to invest in vital new equipment and technology, helping us continue to provide the highest standard of patient care.

Hamilton T1 Ventilator

The Hamilton T1 ventilator is an essential piece of equipment that helps our team care for some of our sickest and most injured patients. It can breathe for patients who are unable to do so independently, delivering controlled oxygen and air to support their breathing.

The Hamilton T1 can be used onboard our aircraft for neonatal, paediatric and adult patients. With Wellington Hospital's Intensive Care Unit using the same model, flight medical staff are familiar with the specialist equipment and can provide seamless continuity of care from hospital to aircraft and back again.

Thank you to The Douglas James Catley Foundation for providing this lifesaving equipment.

Mobile Access Platform

With the arrival of our new Westpac Rescue Helicopter, our existing Mobile Access Platform was no longer suitable for safely accessing the aircraft.

The platform is used every day by pilots to carry out pre-flight safety inspections and by maintenance engineers to complete the regular checks required to maintain the highest standards of aircraft safety.

Working at heights also requires the right equipment to meet New Zealand safety standards. Investing in a new Mobile Access Platform helps keep our team safe and ensures they can carry out their vital work safely and effectively - so they are ready to help those in need.

Thank you to Trust House for enabling the purchase of the Mobile Access Platform.

ZOLL Defibrillator

The defibrillator is a vital piece of equipment carried on our aircraft, giving our medical teams the tools they need to respond if a patient's condition suddenly deteriorates.

If a patient experiences a dangerous heart rhythm or cardiac arrest while being flown to specialist care, the ZOLL monitor-defibrillator allows our team to closely monitor their heart rhythm and, when needed, deliver an electrical shock to help restore a normal rhythm.

Having this equipment on board means our medical teams are ready to provide critical, life-saving care when every second counts.

Thank you to Pelorus Trust for funding this vital equipment



Aeromedical crew training at Life Flight's Wellington base



Waikato Air Ambulance Plane with incubator

Full plane engine overhaul

A full engine overhaul was required on one of our Air Ambulance Planes. A full engine overhaul is essential for keeping the King Air B200C aircraft safe, reliable and ready to respond when patients need us most. It restores the engine to a like-new condition, ensures it is operating within the required specifications and helps prevent costly failures in the future.

For our Air Ambulance Planes, reliability is critical. Every flight may be carrying a critically ill or injured patient who needs to reach specialist medical care as quickly and safely as possible.

The overhaul will keep this aircraft flying for approximately another 10 years before its next full engine overhaul is required. Over that time, it is estimated the aircraft will help transport between 4,000 and 5,000 patients, ensuring they can access the specialist care they need.

Thank you to Pub Charity for helping keep this aircraft in the air and ready to be there when New Zealanders need us most.

Building capability to save lives

Three of our pilots were the first to complete world-class training in a Level D Full Motion Simulator in Maroochydore, Australia, through Ansett.

This training marked the beginning of an ongoing pilot development programme that continues to strengthen the skills and capability of our flight crews. The simulator allows pilots to practise complex and challenging scenarios in a safe, controlled environment, building their skills, confidence and decision-making for when lives are on the line.

Our Flight Operations Manager, who is also an active pilot, completed the training to become an in-house certifier. This strengthens our ability to deliver training within our own team, building long-term capability while reducing future training costs.

Simulator training is an important and ongoing part of maintaining our pilots' skills. It allows our aircraft to remain available for life-saving missions while providing a cost-effective way to maintain and develop our crews' skills.

Thank you to our founding donor whose support enabled our first pilots to undertake this training and helped establish this crucial training programme.



Mark Johnston, Chief Executive and Luke Rohloff Fixed-Wing Flight Operations Manager test simulator training



Meet Catherine

Catherine was used to being tired, working on a dairy farm while raising two young children. But this was different. She couldn't get out of bed.

She made a trip to hospital, but she insisted she was fine.

Doctors quickly realised the truth: her chest cavity was filling with blood, and her heart was dangerously enlarged. Catherine had suffered a major heart attack. One of the blood vessels in her heart had ruptured.

Catherine needed urgent care at Christchurch Hospital, hours away by road, through remote areas with no phone coverage.

Thankfully, the Life Flight crew were there for her.

"When I was brought out to the plane, I felt a sense of relief. I knew I was in good hands." In less than 45 minutes, Catherine reached the care that saved her life.

Today, she is back with her children, moments she knows she could have missed. "I had a two-year-old daughter and a 10-month-old son... it was terrifying to think I might not see them grow up. I'm alive because of the generosity of people I'll never meet."

" I had a two-year-old daughter and a 10-month-old son... it was terrifying to think I might not see them grow up. I'm alive because of the generosity of people I'll never meet."

— CATHERINE

Community Engagement

Every year, our community steps up to support Life Flight. We value every opportunity to connect with members of the public, share more about our life-saving work and, most importantly, thank them for their incredible support.

Life Flight Open Day, Wellington



Life Flight Open Day, Wellington



Life Flight Open Day March 22nd

The hangar doors at our Wellington base opened at 10am and Life Flight's Open Day drew an outstanding turnout of more than 5,000 attendees. Guests enjoyed stepping aboard the Air Ambulance Planes, connecting with fellow emergency services, watching the Westpac Chopper winch demonstration and taking part in a wide range of family-friendly activities.

With demos from fellow emergency services, kids' entertainment, tasty food PLUS the chance to win a flight in the Westpac Rescue Helicopter, there was something for everyone.

“ I'd like to thank all those who played a part in putting this together. From those who answered questions to those standing outside to collect the koha on the way in.”



Thanks to our incredible volunteers and our staff who all gave their time in May to raise funds for the Westpac Chopper Appeal.



“ Kids had a blast. Lots of interactive things for them to do... It was a really well done event again - Thank you!”

We were thrilled to be able to show our wonderful community how their support provides lifesaving aeromedical care right across New Zealand.

Westpac Chopper Appeal Month

Once again, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our Principal Sponsor Westpac and our incredible volunteers who gave their time to help raise vital funds for the Westpac Chopper Appeal in May.

We are thrilled that a record-breaking \$126,937 was raised for Life Flight through this year's appeal.

These much-needed funds help cover the rising costs of equipment, supplies and training, helping to keep our Westpac Rescue Helicopter ready

We are especially grateful to the entire Westpac team, including the Westpac Chopper Champs, who launched a new fundraising event, HeliStride. The event encouraged people to get active while raising vital funds to support Life Flight's Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

And to our community - thank you. Your generosity and commitment help keep the aircraft flying and enable us to be there when lives are on the line.



Paul outside the
Life Flight Wellington base

Meet Paul

Paul had never been seriously ill, so learning that his lungs were “practically disintegrating” came as a complete shock. Diagnosed with pulmonary fibrosis, he urgently needed a lung transplant.

For months, Paul waited in Wellington, ready to be flown to Auckland at a moment’s notice if donor lungs became available. As his condition worsened, he relied on oxygen and full-time hospital care.

When the call finally came, every minute mattered. Thanks to the generosity of Life Flight supporters, the Air Ambulance Plane crew was ready.

“The crew kept me and my wife warm and comfortable. They picked me up from the hospital in the road ambulance (bought by generous donors), straight into the plane, zoomed to Auckland, and I got prepped for surgery.” Paul recalls.

The transplant was a success, giving Paul three more precious years with his family, including time with his grandchildren.

Then tragedy struck again. His transplanted lungs began to fail, and doctors believed he had only months to live. Thankfully a call came through in the middle of the night - another set of donor lungs became available. Once again, thanks to supporters like you, the Life Flight team sped Paul, barely conscious, onto the life-saving Air Ambulance Plane – all made possible by you.

Today, Paul is recovering well and remains deeply grateful.

“Thank you for saving my life. Without Life Flight, I would have died twice. My wife and my children are forever grateful.”

Your donations gave Paul not just one second chance at life, but two.

**“ Thank you for saving my life.
Without Life Flight, I would have
died twice. My wife and my
children are forever grateful”**



Paul visiting the
Life Flight Wellington base

Sponsors

Life Flight gratefully acknowledges the contributions and support received from the following companies and organisations.



Major Sponsor



Vehicle Sponsor



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- › Clive Button
- › Bill Day
- › Juliet Best

PATRON

- › Her Excellency, The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand

Grant funders

1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026



Life Flight warmly thanks the following organisations for their generous support. Their grants help provide 24/7 urgent aeromedical care to people across New Zealand and are hugely appreciated.

Akarana Community Trust
Aotearoa Gaming Trust
Bowen Trust
Carterton District Council
Dorothy L Newman Charitable Trust
Dugdale Charitable Trust
Eastern & Central Community Trust
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Kapiti Coast District Council
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Longford Trust
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Paddy Brow Charitable Trust
Paraparaumu RSA Poppy Fund Trust
Pelorus Trust
Porirua City Council
Pub Charity

Rannoch Charitable Trust
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The S and A Cumming Charitable Trust
Trust House
Upper Hutt City Council
Warren and Anne Plimmer Foundation
Wel Energy Trust
Wellington City Council
WN Pharazyn Trust



Gifts in Wills

Every year, generous donors choose to save lives by leaving a Gift in their Will.

These gifts allow people to continue supporting a cause that has meant so much to them during their lifetime, creating a lasting legacy of care for their community.

They help ensure that when someone is experiencing an urgent, life-threatening emergency, Life Flight is there - every hour of every day.

Gifts of every size make a difference. Each one helps provide the time-critical medical care people need, when they need it most. Together, these gifts help make lifesaving missions possible - giving patients the best chance of reaching the care they need, when every minute matters.

We sincerely thank everyone who has left a Gift in their Will. Their generosity will help Life Flight continue to fly lifesaving missions for patients, their whānau and communities - creating a legacy that can save lives for years to come.

Government agencies provide up to 60% of the funding required to keep our life-saving services operational. While their support is invaluable, this leaves a significant annual funding shortfall. The on-going generosity of our wonderful supporters makes a vital contribution towards meeting this gap and ensuring our flight teams can continue to respond when they are needed most.



Air Ambulance Plane at sunset

For the year Ended 31 March 2026

Cash was Provided From:

Sponsorships, Grants, Interest and Donations	\$11,292,000
Flying Fees	\$10,513,000
Drawing down of Investments	\$200,000
Sub-total	\$22,005,000

Cash was Distributed To:

Purchase of Fixed Assets	\$2,657,000
GST Paid	\$37,000
Term Loan Repayments	\$943,000
Payments to Suppliers and Employees	\$19,110,000
Sub-total	\$22,747,000

Reduction in Reserves	(\$742,000)
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We are a registered charity (#CC24283).

Pilot James at
Life Flight Open Day

Life Flight

Saves time · Saves lives

Your generosity this year has helped keep our aircraft in the sky, ensuring we can reach people when they need us most - saving precious time and saving lives.

Because of you, we have been able to help friends, whānau, neighbours and communities across Aotearoa. We are incredibly grateful for your support and the difference it makes to so many lives.

Thank you. We simply couldn't do it without you.

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THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT