Flying from Williamstown to Moree in a six-seater chartered plane is an amazing experience. To be a clinician taking that plane to provide a high-risk maternity service in a small rural centre is even more significant. This presentation will describe the experiences of the staff from the John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle providing a high-risk maternity service’s outreach program 500 km away in Moree.

The outreach team of five, comprised of a maternal–fetal medicine specialist, area neonatal nurse consultant, social worker, high-risk clinical midwifery consultant and the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Strategy Aboriginal Midwifery Manager, visit Moree 10 times a year to provide support and education for the local clinicians who are caring for pregnant women in and around Moree. Direct patient care and consultation is provided as required. The team is completed by local clinicians and includes the midwife and an ultrasound technician.

This innovative outreach high-risk maternity model, funded through the Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (MSOAP), delivers high-quality, patient-centred care through collaboration between a tertiary centre and a rural health service. MSOAP is a successful Department of Health and Ageing initiative that supports health professionals to provide outreach services to rural and remote communities, increasing the range of services offered locally by supporting visiting health professionals to effectively support women and their families through the antenatal and postnatal period; improving ongoing management and care; and increasing and maintaining the skills of health professionals in rural and remote areas in accordance with local need.

This presentation looks at the experiences of providers and users of the service, and identifies the positive impact on care, demonstrating this as a model for quality care in a rural environment.