



Briefing Paper

About Angel Flight Australia

Angel Flight is a charity that coordinates non-emergency flights to help country people trying to deal with the triple trouble of bad health, poor finances and daunting distance.

All flights are free and may involve patients travelling to medical facilities anywhere in Australia.

Angel Flight pilots do not carry aeromedical staff or medical equipment so do not act as an alternative to the Royal Flying Doctor Service or Air Ambulance in that capacity.

With its current resources Angel Flight can coordinate up to twenty flights per day.

Who is transported?

- Patients of all ages needing medical treatment at destinations where other forms of transport are physically and emotionally taxing or unaffordable
- Blood and blood products
- Medical drugs

To meet our guidelines, passengers must be medically stable, ambulatory and physically able to enter and exit a small aircraft (involving large steps, twists, bends) without assistance from the pilot and sit up in the aircraft with a seatbelt on for an extended period of time, and if necessary communicate with the pilot.

Angel Flight encourages a friend or relative of the patient to travel with the patient as a carer.

We have conducted over 17,500 flights helping over 2,800 patients, carers and family members.

How is the service accessed?

Health Professionals (medical practitioner, nurse, social worker) who have a good knowledge of the patient's medical condition are the only people from whom Angel Flight can receive and accept 'mission requests'.

Health Professional registrations are over 3,100.

Who does the flying?

Flights are conducted by volunteer pilots in their own aircraft.

Angel Flight operates Australia-wide with a growing network of pilots and aircraft. Volunteer pilots come from all walks of life and donate their time, their skills and most of their aircraft costs* for each flight. Our volunteer pilots flight credentials exceed the requirements of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) and the aircraft meet specified CASA and insurance minimums.

Pilot registrations are over 2,800.

** To help offset pilot operating costs Angel Flight Australia negotiates the waiver of landing fees at airports around the country. Airservices Australia reverses any air navigation charges. Angel Flight pays for fuel used by pilots when they conduct an Angel Flight mission. Donations received are used to fully subsidise fuel costs.*



Our ground volunteers

Angel Flight's ground volunteers provide car transportation between the general aviation airports and medical facilities (or nearby accommodation). Most drives occur in the capital cities (Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Perth) or major towns (such as Newcastle or Rockhampton)

It can be a great support to the passenger to have a friendly face waiting to meet them at the airport, saving the passenger the hassle of trying to navigate public transport in a strange city.

These wonderful volunteers help as drivers, and also as speakers and fund raisers.

Volunteer driver registrations are over 4,100.

How is Angel Flight Australia funded?

Angel Flight is funded by private donations from individuals, clubs and service clubs, companies large and small and deceased estates.

We have a policy to never follow up donors asking for more money.

Donations are used to pay for:

- fuel used in the conduct of Angel Flight missions
- discounted commercial flights when poor weather prevents light aircraft from flying
- the Angel Flight Support Centre that runs on a very small infrastructure, with four mission coordinators and three administrators as full time paid staff.

Angel Flight is an exceptional charity in that it does not have a fundraising department and only spends about 15% of revenue on administrative overheads like rent and telephone charges.

Approximately 85% of revenue is spent on the actual coordination and delivery of its service.

Who is behind Angel Flight Australia?

Established in April 2003, Angel Flight Australia is the initiative of Bill Bristow AM, an experienced businessman and pilot, and proud winner of the Australian of the Year Award - Queensland 2005.

In 2009, Bill was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for service to rural and remote communities through the establishment of Angel Flight Australia and as a supporter of charitable organisations.

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