

## Help is never far away: the role of Angel Flight

### Marjorie Pagani

Angel Flight

Angel Flight was launched as an Australian charity in April 2003 and is the initiative of successful businessman and experienced pilot Bill Bristow AM.

Angel Flight coordinates non-emergency flights to assist country people to access specialist medical treatment that would otherwise be unavailable to them because of vast distance and high travel costs. All flights are free and may involve patients travelling to or from medical facilities anywhere in Australia.

Marjorie Pagani was recently appointed as Angel Flight's Chief Executive Officer after serving as pro bono aviation lawyer for the charity since its inception, and being one of the founding volunteer pilots.

Marjorie will talk about what Angel Flight does; the scope and limitations of the service; who can access Angel Flight and the range of geographical locations; as well as highlight the difference between the transport options offered by Angel Flight and the services provided by the government travel assistance plans, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Air Ambulance.

Angel Flight receives no government assistance and is funded entirely by public donations, and the volunteer pilots and drivers who get disadvantaged rural people to medical appointments. Marjorie will explain the invaluable role played in this serviced by the remote area health professionals who refer their clients to Angel Flight for transport.