



## **Briefing Paper**

### **About Angel Flight Australia – established April 2003**

Angel Flight Australia is a charity that co-ordinates non-emergency flights for financially and medically needy people. All flights are free and assist patients or compassionate carers travelling to or from 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 Flying Doctor (RFDS) or Air Ambulance in that capacity.

Angel Flight services are entirely free.

### **Who is transported?**

- Patients of all ages needing medical treatment at destinations where other forms of transport are physically and emotionally taxing or unaffordable
- Patient carers for compassionate reasons
- Blood and blood products
- Medical drugs
- Anyone medically and financially disadvantaged

We have now conducted over 9000 Angel Flight missions helping over 1800 patients, carers and family members.

### **How is the service accessed?**

Registered 'Health Professionals' (i.e. medical practitioners, nurses, social workers) are the people from whom we receive 'mission requests'.

Health Professional registrations are approaching 2200.

### **Who does the flying?**

Angel Flight pilots donate their time, their skills and the bulk of their aircraft costs\* for each flight.

Our volunteer pilots and aircraft owners' flight credentials exceed the requirements of CASA and the aircraft meet specified CASA and insurance minimums.

Geographically, Angel Flight serves the medically needy Australia wide with a network of pilots and aircraft in all states and territories which is growing as the word spreads.

Pilot registrations are approaching 2300.

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



### **Our ground volunteers**

Angel Flight pilots donate their time and the bulk of their aircraft operating expenses but we still need lots of other help. Car transportation for patients and carers, fundraising and running information booths at special events, schools and air shows are just a few ways our ground volunteers, who are affectionately known as 'Earth Angels', help out.

Earth Angel registrations are approaching 3000.

### **How is Angel Flight Australia funded?**

Angel Flight is funded by private donations.

We rely entirely on donations from individuals, clubs and service clubs, companies large and small and deceased estates.

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

Donations are used to pay for:

- fuel used in the conduct of Angel flights
- specially discounted commercial flights in the event of long haul missions, Capital City transfers where a commercial flight is a much more economical option, short notice missions, or when poor weather prevents light aircraft from flying
- the Angel Flight Support Centre that runs on a very small infrastructure, with six full time co-ordinators as paid staff.

We rely heavily on our Earth Angels to co-ordinate fundraising activity.

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. Eighty-five percent of revenue is spent on the actual co-ordination and delivery of its service.

### **Who is behind Angel Flight Australia?**

Angel Flight Australia is the initiative of Bill Bristow AM, a successful businessman, experienced pilot and very 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.

With its current resources and infrastructure Angel Flight can accept and co-ordinate up to ten flights per day.

### **For further information contact:**

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