




Angel
Flight

2024
ANNUAL REPORT



**4268 FLIGHTS
COMPLETED**



**855 FAMILIES
HELPED**



**162 HEALTH
PROFESSIONAL
FLIGHTS**



**83 NEW PILOT
VOLUNTEERS
WELCOMED**



**60 NEW DRIVER
VOLUNTEERS
WELCOMED**

2024 has been a remarkable year of growth and progress for Angel Flight Australia. We have reached new heights in delivering our service across the country, enabling more individuals in rural and remote communities to access essential healthcare. This year, we expanded our operations to include flying health professionals directly to communities in need, strengthening our commitment to bridging the healthcare gap in underserved areas. In this report, we are pleased to share an overview of our achievements, the impactful stories of those we've helped, and the incredible support from our volunteers and donors who make this work possible.

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OUR STORY

Angel Flight is a national charity that has been successfully operating for 21 years, transporting patients from regional, rural and remote communities into capital cities for critical medical support through our free flight and drive service. We work with our team of generous volunteer pilots and drivers to coordinate free, non-emergency flights and drives so people living remotely across Australia can access specialist medical treatments in the city. Our pilots do not carry aeromedical staff or medical equipment, so do not act as an alternative to the Air Ambulance services, however we will fly you back home from emergency trips. Angel Flight receive no government funding and for the past 21 years have relied on the generosity of individual donors, organisations and bequests to keep the service going.



QUICK FACTS

Approximated as at JUL 2024



21

YEARS IN OPERATION



60,000

FREE FLIGHTS TO DATE



120,000

FREE DRIVES



2,800

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
TRANFRES



100,000

RURAL FAMILIES HELPED



3,500

VOLUNTEER PILOTS



4,300

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

As we reflect on the remarkable journey of 2024, I am filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication of our incredible community. This year has been a milestone for Angel Flight Australia, marked not only by our continued commitment to providing vital air transportation for those in need but also by the successful launch of our Rural Medi-Flights initiative.

The launch of Rural Medi-Flight in Queensland has been a transformative addition to our services. By bridging the gap between rural communities and essential medical services, we are proud to make a tangible difference in the lives of those who often feel isolated and underserved.

To our volunteers: your selflessness and commitment are the heart and soul of Angel Flight Australia. Each flight you support, each smile you share, and every moment you devote to our mission exemplifies the spirit of compassion that drives our organisation. You are the reason we can continue to expand our reach and impact, and for that, I extend my deepest thanks.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to enhancing our services and exploring new avenues to support those in need. Thank you for believing in our vision and for standing with us as we strive to make a difference in the lives of countless Australians. Together, we can transform hope into reality.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Marjorie Pagani



“The challenges we face are significant, but together, we can continue to soar above them. Your support—whether through donations, volunteering, or spreading the word about our mission—empowers us to reach new heights.”

OUR BOARD



From Left: Howard Hobbs, Chairperson of the Board. Marjorie Pagani, CEO, Executive Director and Company Secretary. Allan Bourgoire, Non-Executive Director.

Howard Hobbs Chairperson of the Board

Howard Hobbs has been a dedicated board member and pilot for Angel Flight Australia since 2019, flying people in need across rural Queensland from his home base in Roma. A private pilot and grazier, Howard's public service career spans nearly three decades in the Queensland Legislative Assembly, where he represented Warrego from 1986 to 2015.

Howard also served as Chairman of Tambo Shire Council and held numerous parliamentary roles focused on local government and regional development. Today, he continues to support his community as Chairman of Pinaroo Roma INC and as Patron of the Queensland Polocrosse Association. His leadership and passion for regional Australia make him an invaluable part of the Angel Flight team.

Marjorie Pagani CEO, Executive Director & Company Secretary

An integral and founding member of Angel Flight, Marjorie has served as CEO since 2015, and as a practicing barrister, has supported Angel Flight pro bono since 2003, specializing in aviation law. Also holding a commercial pilots license, Marjorie was one of the first volunteer pilots at Angel Flight. Marjorie's career includes presiding roles on the Queensland Anti-Discrimination Tribunal, Queensland Mental Health Review Tribunal, and North Queensland Parole Board, as well as positions on various government and private boards. A retired Squadron Leader in the RAAF's specialist legal corps reserve, she also serves on the James Cook University Council.

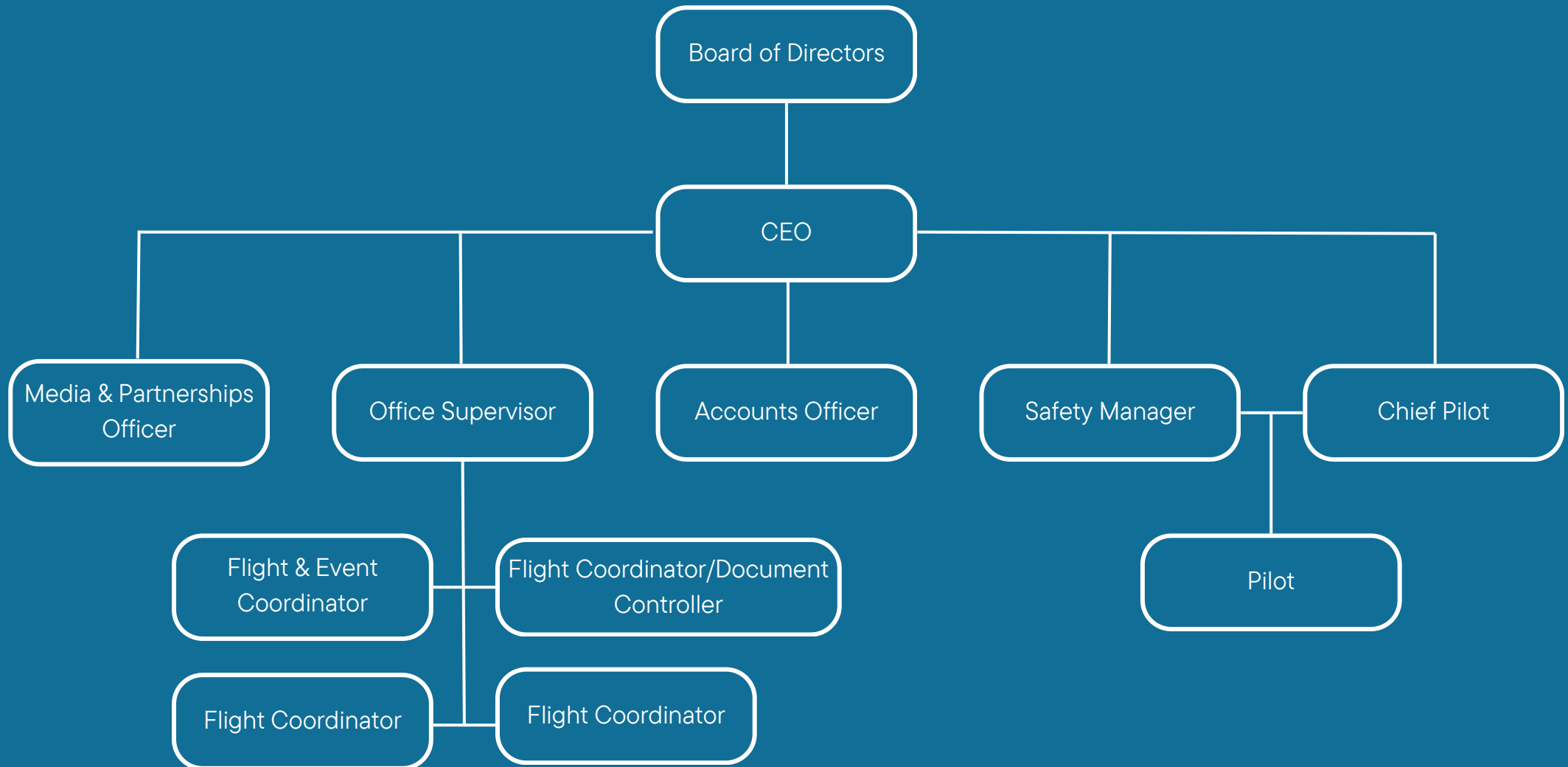
Marjorie has been the driving force behind the 2024 launch of Rural Medi Flights, a dedicated air service for health professionals, with plans to expand operations nationwide, including in Cairns and Port Hedland.

Allan Bourgoire Non-Executive Director

Allan Bourgoire is a results-oriented executive with a strong record of driving growth in complex sectors across Australia and internationally. Joining the board as a Non-Executive Director in 2024, Allan brings extensive experience in asset management, project management, and strategic planning across agriculture, manufacturing, and resources. Currently the Executive Chair of Sabre Energy, he leads growth initiatives within the energy sector, focusing on oil and gas.

Residing in Tara, Queensland, Allan is passionate about rural life and aviation, having flown since 1987. He is also registered as an Angel Flight volunteer pilot, is President and CEO of the Darling Downs Aero Club, and a board member of 'Western Downs Futures,' an initiative supporting regional progress in Queensland.

ORGANISATION CHART



2024 HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPACT

February marked the official launch of Angel Flight's Rural Medi-Flights service, dedicated to taking health professionals to the bush and beyond.

Angel Flight's increasingly busy service transporting rural people to the city but also providing increased transport for health professionals to rural and remote hospitals and clinics, confirms the very need for a dedicated Rural Medi-Flights service.

The first of the proposed convoy of aircraft has been dubbed 'Kayla' in honour of an Angel Flight passenger who flew almost 400 times to access vital medical care, but who sadly lost her health battle at the young age of 23.

Since inception, Rural Medi-Flights has partnered with Heart of Australia and Rural Doctors Foundation to take their medics to remote communities across Queensland.

"It is widely recognised that the arduous nature of the travel required to get out to the bush is one of the main reasons our doctors and nurses are reluctant to leave the city." - Marjorie Pagani, Angel Flight CEO.



Angel Flight Pilot, Randal Tokody and Heart of Australia Doctor, Dr David Chang 8

HARPER & MADDIE

Twin five-year-olds Harper and Maddie were born eight weeks premature in 2019, via emergency at Westmead Hospital. A goliath fight for survival lay ahead for the little troopers and many years of stress and upheaval for the Gardner family.

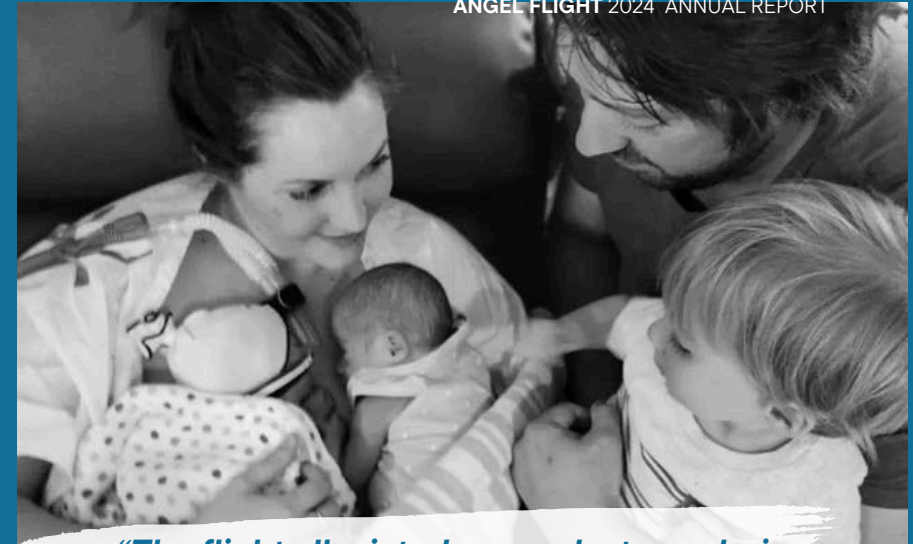
Providing free flights and drives, 27 to date, from Tamworth to Sydney has been a pleasure and an honour for Angel Flight pilots who continue to help twins, Harper in particular, with her ongoing medical needs.

Maddie and Harper are dichorionic diamniotic twins, (DCDA) meaning they each had their own amniotic sac and placenta. In a rare medical occurrence, the twins' placenta had an interconnecting vascular system, and they unfortunately developed twin anemia polycythemia sequence (TAPS).

Facing the overwhelming task of getting to medical appointments in Sydney, Maddie and Harper's parents were eternally grateful for the referral from Westmead Hospital to Angel Flight. Since 2020, the family have flown 27 times with Angel Flight.

"The efficiency and directness of the flight was a godsend for our family." - Sonya, Maddie & Harpers' mum.

Angel Flight is honoured to have helped the Gardner family and will continue to do so for as long as they need help.



"The flight alleviated so much stress during an intense time, I was breastfeeding Maddie and Harper was tube fed so we had the feeding pump in tow. She had only been discharged from ICU two months earlier so the drive from Tamworth would have been unbearable for all of us." - Sonya, Maddie & Harpers' mum.



Sonya, Gareth, Asher, Maddie and Harper Gardner

LYLE & RODNEY

Angel Flight jumped into action to help a distressed Georgetown man to see his gravely ill wife in a Cairns hospital after receiving an early morning phone call from Robbie Katter MP, Member for Traeger.

With flooded roads blocking the route to Cairns and time not on his side, Mr Katter, and Georgetown resident, Tammy Hughes, made arrangements with Angel Flight on behalf of Lyle Stacpoole, who was desperate to be by his wife's side.

Townsville based Angel Flight volunteer pilot, Rodney Battle, did not hesitate to accept when the urgent flight request was made early on a Tuesday morning.

Rodney flew Lyle into Cairns Airport on Tuesday afternoon and returned him later week. Rodney is one of 3500 volunteer Angel Flight pilots who donate their aircraft, time, and expertise to help rural people in need.

"I'm so grateful that someone has had the drive to create a service that gives us a door to knock on - sadly a frequent occurrence when you represent a rural area." - Robbie Katter MP



Tammy Hughes, Lyle Stacpoole and Rodney Battle

VOLUNTEER MILESTONES



Shaun Aisen

PILOT

Surpassed **1300** flights since becoming a volunteer in 2003



Owen Creech

PILOT

Surpassed **800** flights since becoming a volunteer in 2004



Darrell Campbell

PILOT

Surpassed **800** flights since becoming a volunteer in 2010



Rodney Baldock

EARTH ANGEL

Surpassed **200** drives since becoming a volunteer in 2021



Loretta Joseph

EARTH ANGEL

Surpassed **400** drives since becoming a volunteer in 2016



John Rowley

EARTH ANGEL

Surpassed **200** drives since becoming a volunteer in 2023



JEANIE GLOBAL

Angel Flight have worked with Jeanie Global for a number of years to help rural communities gain access to medics whilst encouraging medical students and locums to work rurally, by providing direct and on demand transport to hard-to-reach places. Previously working with Jeanie Global to fly dental students to remote placement in South Australia, in June 2024, Angel Flight engaged with the group once again on a project that transports doctors from Adelaide to Kangaroo Island to help bolster the island's medical services.

CANCER COUNCIL QUEENSLAND

Realising the challenges cancer patients face when living remotely, Angel Flight have partnered with Cancer Council to help transport patients home when discharged from Cancer Council's various accommodation hubs across Queensland. The partnership shows the impact charities can make when they work together to help sick rural people in need.



NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ALLIANCE

Angel Flight is a proud member of the National Rural Health Alliance, which serves to bring equity to people living rurally. With our key focus being rural health, the alliance has enabled many connections to other likeminded organisations which has led to new and fruitful partnerships for Angel Flight. This year, Angel Flight CEO Marjorie Pagani was invited to speak as a panellist at Parliamentary Friends of Rural and Regional Health at Parliament House, to discuss and advocate for healthcare solutions for rural Australians.

RURAL DOCTORS FOUNDATION

Angel Flight is proud to be flying Rural Doctor Foundation, in support of their GPs4RuralDocs program, aimed at supporting rural health practitioners to keep them living and working in rural communities. Under our **'Rural Medi Flights'** service, Angel Flight is providing Rural Doctors Foundation with cost effective air transportation that enables their treating GP to access hard-to-reach communities across Queensland.

CEO of Rural Doctors Foundation, Fran Avon, says this partnership is vital to the future of the program, and to the current health crisis in rural Australia. **"Distance and isolation pose a huge challenge for rural health practitioners and so what happens when they need a doctor, and the closest one is over 300 kilometres away? This is the problem we're addressing and it's why we're passionate about providing this GP service for rural health practitioners in rural and remote towns,"** she says.

The partnership represents hope for the future as we collectively strive to remove barriers to healthcare for medical practitioners by bringing care to them.



HEART OF AUSTRALIA



Seeing the connection in our mission to improve rural health, Heart of Australia (HOA) and Angel Flight teamed up earlier this year to take their specialists and medical staff to outback Queensland through our **Rural Medi-Flights** service. **Rural Medi-Flights** offered HOA a cost effective, direct and on demand flying solution for their busy health professionals and the high speed 8-10 seat cabin-class twin engine aircraft has the ability to land at all country town airfields including the 36 communities Heart of Australia regularly services through its mobile clinics.

Heart of Australia Founder and Cardiologist Dr Rolf Gomes, said the partnership brings; **"a new level of convenience for our specialists who are eager to deliver healthcare to rural, remote, and First Nations communities, but need to reduce the travel time to clinics in order to maximise time with patients on the day."**

HEALTH ALLIANCE

In 2024 Angel Flight partnered with a number of health focused organisations, working closely with well aligned charities and organisations as we strive to achieve better access to health care for those living in rural and remote parts of Australia.

To date Angel Flight has serviced around 340 communities across Australia ensuring everyday people living in the bush get access to care and support in the same way as those living in capital cities. Angel Flight will continue to offer free, non-emergency flights to people in need through our fleet of volunteer pilots and drivers while we embark on what we call our 'Parallel Runway'- taking health professionals to the bush.

For too many remote communities, access to much-needed health care is out of reach and there is a gap in the market for consistent and familiar medical professionals who both work and live in the community.

Angel Flight has also partnered with a number of health focused organisations to help improve rural health care by bringing health professionals and students to live and work in rural communities, offering access to flights to and from 'home base' when required.



HeartKids



**Rural Doctors
Foundation.**

Caring • Committed • Connected



BUSHKID'S

Royal Queensland Bush Children's Health Scheme Limited



**HEART of
AUSTRALIA**

MAJOR EVENTS & DONATIONS



SFC AUSTRALIA AIR RACE

In May, a team of passionate aviators launched the second Sydney Flight College (SFC) Air Race for Angel Flight, raising an impressive **\$65,000** for our cause. Eight pilot teams took off from Bankstown Airport, competing on a route through Tamworth, St George, Roma, Longreach, Charleville, Tibooburra, and Lightning Ridge before returning to Bankstown on May 10. Each leg of the race tested their piloting and navigation skills, and the course was designed to reflect the journeys Angel Flight pilots undertake to support rural communities. We are immensely grateful to the dedicated pilots and the SFC team for their incredible support and commitment to this mission.



COTTON CONFERENCE

This year, Angel Flight was honored to be the beneficiary of the Australian Cotton Conference, raising an incredible **\$40,000**—enough to fund around 80 flights for rural Australians in need. The generosity began with a lively golf day, raising \$10,000 as a prelude to the main event at the Gold Coast Convention Centre on August 6-8. The official charity day was held on August 8 and was a humbling reminder of how valued our service is, with attendees on theme in blue tutus, halos and wings, collecting thousands in donations. A fast-paced charity auction added \$35,000, highlighted by Avondale Ag's \$14,500 bid on a bale of cotton donated by Namoi Cotton.



JGI QUARRY GOLF DAY

As an organisation we aim to reinvest donations straight back into missions for people in need and therefore spend limited funds on marketing and fundraising. Angel Flight are blessed to have organisations across the country fundraising on our behalf and Corporate Golf Days seem to be a fruitful way to generate funds while corporates have a bit of fun. In October, we were part of another successful Golf Day organised by JGI Quarry and facilitated by Rush Events. JGI and their guest had a fabulously fun day having a hit for Angel Flight, with the concluding auction successfully driving home **\$27,000** for our cause!



SHAW & PARTNERS FOUNDATION

Celebrating their 10-year anniversary, Shaw and Partners Foundation has reached an impressive milestone of donating \$10 million to charities over the decade. Angel Flight was honoured to have been chosen as one of six charities that their staff voted to support as part of this celebration, receiving a cheque for **\$20,000**.

Fundraising efforts on our behalf are often the result of a referral from someone who has firsthand experienced of the impact our service makes. In this case, Angela Holstein, the Senior Private Wealth Advisor at the foundation, understands the valuable contribution of our service as her husband, Richard Holstein, is one of our volunteer pilots.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with this incredible foundation, which is making a real difference for charities across Australia.



BROADWAY IN THE HANGAR ROTARY CALOUNDRRA PACIFIC

Since the collation of such records began in 2017, Rotary has raised over **\$175,000** for Angel Flight – the collective impact of branches across Australia raising funds for our cause. One such event which is particularly unique in nature is ‘Broadway in the Hangar’, hosted by Rotary Club of Caloundra Pacific and sponsored by Cirrus Aircraft. Held at the Queensland Air Museum, Caloundra, the audience is surrounded by magnificent vintage aircraft and entertained by world renown performance company, ‘Underground Opera’. Through event ticket sales, raffles and an auction, the event raised an incredible **\$12,000** for Angel Flight, enabling many rural people to be supported and cared for. The event is a reminder of the magic that comes when community spirited people work together for a cause.

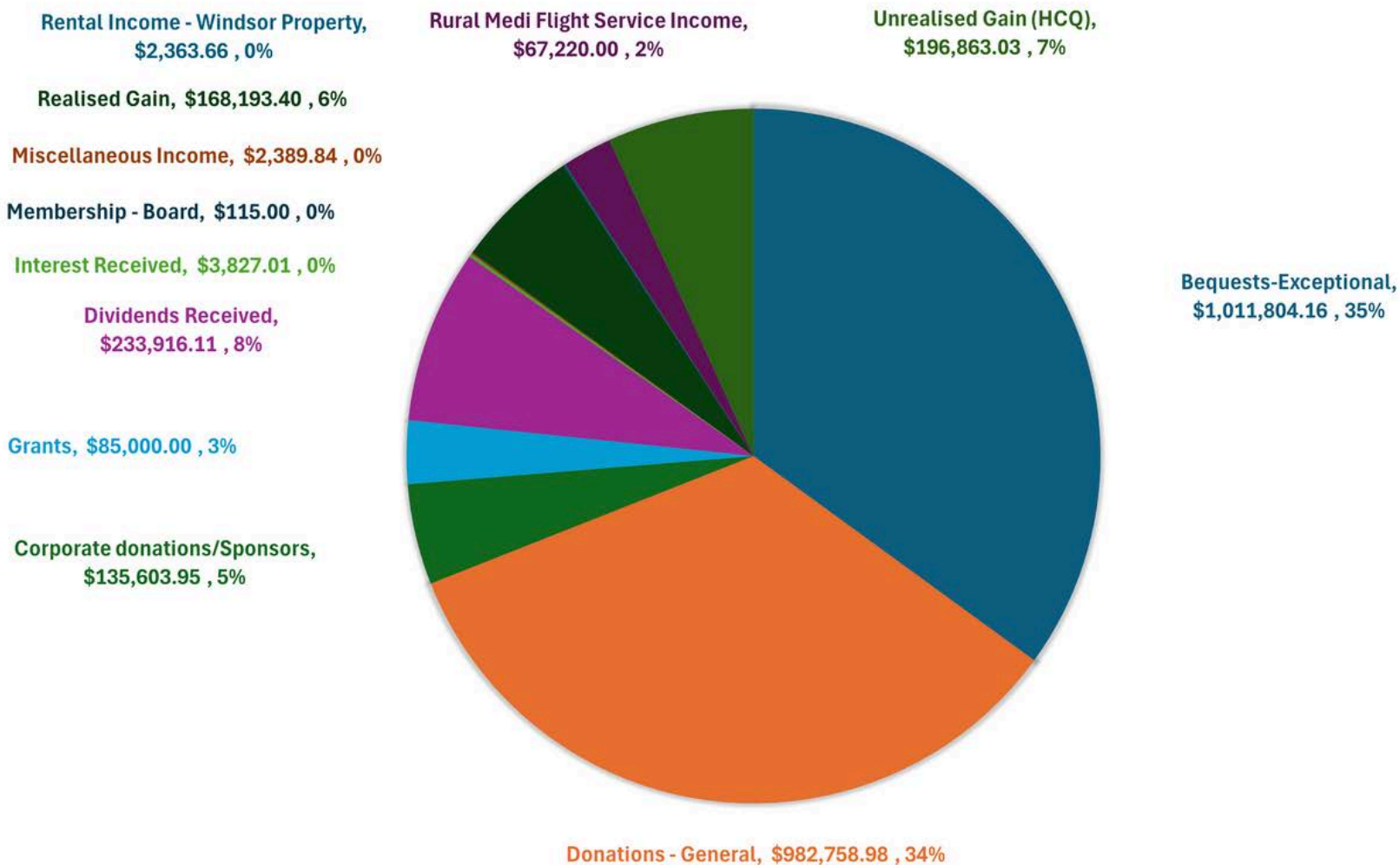


COMMBANK GRANT

Angel Flight is thrilled to have received a **\$20,000** CommBank Community Grant, made possible by Sunil Thomas, CommBank General Manager and committed volunteer pilot – pictured above during a mission – who nominated us. Since 2015, Sunil has flown 36 missions across New South Wales, offering support to people of all ages and backgrounds. **“The relief we bring to these families is palpable. It’s an incredible privilege and joy to support Angel Flight’s purpose,”** Sunil shared. This generous grant will help fund approximately 40 flights and drives, allowing us to serve rural Australians who face unique challenges. As demand for our services continues to rise, we’re grateful to CommBank for helping us bridge the healthcare gap for individuals and families in remote areas.

2024 STATEMENT OF FUNDING SOURCES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2024



FUTURE PLANS & GOALS



Dr Erin O'Halloran and Pilot Owen Crees



Dr Angela Travis and Pilot Owen Crees

KANGAROO ISLAND & ANGEL FLIGHT HEALTH PROJECT

Recognising the need for increased workforce to meet community health demands on Kangaroo island, Angel Flight began an air transport program in June 2024, taking doctors to and from Adelaide or Aldinga to the island and return.

The project aims to provide direct and on demand air transport to enable more health professionals to work on the island, and results are showing the significant impact this is having on doctors and the Kangaroo Island community.

With Angel Flight stalwart Owen Crees in the pilot seat, the project replaces half a day of travel for doctors with a quick 30-minute flight from Aldinga to Kangaroo Island. The project has proved to have saved doctors hours of travel time, resulting in a dramatic increase in patient consultation time and more specialised services to patients. The project has also allowed travelling doctors to arrive and depart on time, meaning there is no need to reschedule or overload other GPs with additional patient load. Angel Flight hopes to gain private or government funding to place an aircraft in Adelaide to continue this vital service to Kangaroo Island and other rural and remote locations of South Australia.

RURAL MEDI-FLIGHTS

Over the past three years, Angel Flight has seen the growing need for an air transport service that works in with health professionals travelling to rural and remote locations. Approximately **7 million** Australians live in regional and remote areas and this portion of the population have higher rates of hospitalisation, death, injury, and poorer access to, and use of primary health care services, than those living in the cities. Angel Flight have responded to this by launching a dedicated Rural Medi-Flights service to transport health professionals to the bush and back.

Rural Medi-Flights operates from Archerfield, Brisbane and services doctors and allied health professionals travelling to rural and remote parts of Queensland that would otherwise take days to reach or be unreachable due to floods and other natural disasters. The dedicated air service operates to the highest CASA standards, under the Air Transport Category and is flown by highly experienced airline pilots with Instructor and Check and Training Captain status. The 8-10 seat cabin-class twin-engine aircraft transports health professionals for a small fraction of the cost of larger air ambulance aircraft allowing health providers like Heart of Australia and Rural Doctors Foundation to practice medicine in rural and remote areas of Queensland. It is available 24/7 as a dedicated aircraft for these purposes. The size of the aircraft enables it to land at all country town airfields and most communities across Queensland.

Angel Flight plans to expand the Queensland based service to become a national operation, with a dedicated aircraft in each capital city, Cairns, and Port Hedland. However, this plan will not come to fruition without government funding or significant private funding. This service is currently operating as a low-cost charter service, however with funding, we would like to make it a free service for medics travelling to the bush to help rural communities in need.



Heart of Australia Cardiologist, Dr Nicholas Aroney



Angel Flight Pilot, Randal Tokody with aircraft, Kayla

WITH HEARTFELT APPRECIATION

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported Angel Flight Australia throughout 2024. From our dedicated volunteers, to our generous donors, partners, and community advocates; each of you has played a crucial role in making our work possible.

Your commitment to bridging healthcare access for those in need has truly transformed lives and strengthened communities. This journey would not be possible without your compassion, dedication, and belief in our mission. Thank you for soaring alongside us and helping us reach new heights.

If you would like to view our latest video, following the story of our incredible passenger Bella Southern, [CLICK THIS LINK](#).

THANK YOU!



Passenger Bella Southern and Pilot Chris Guy

Angel Flight

