

Our Official Charity



The **Westpac Rescue Helicopter** based in Christchurch and the **NZCC Rescue Helicopter** based in Greymouth are ready to respond 24 hours of the day, 365 days of the year.

In a life and death situation where every minute counts, air rescue may be a patient's only chance for survival.

Key facts

- The Air Rescue service covers the largest single geographical area in New Zealand – watching over the lives of over 600,000 people. From rugged coastlines and vast rural landscapes to lush forests and towering alpine peaks, the South Island of NZ is an environment that has few equals, its wide open spaces can make our region one the most dangerous.
- In trauma cases such as road accidents and medical emergencies, if a patient has access to the specialised care they need within one hour of the onset of illness or injury, their chances of making a complete recovery increase by up to 80%. This is recognised and referred to as "The Golden Hour".
- Since 1989 the Air Rescue service has undertaken over 10,000 rescue missions, with over 900 people rescued in 2016 alone.
- Over a 24 hour period, an average of three people in the Canterbury West Coast region will place their lives in the hands of the Air Rescue crew.

This critical lifeline is completely free for patients.

It's an expensive but essential service and only 30% of mission costs are covered by the government. Each mission costs an average of \$8,625 and the Air Rescue Trust need to raise over \$7 million a year to keep the service going. The Air Rescue service would not exist without the life-saving donations and passionate support of individuals, families, and businesses in our community.

Please support your local Air Rescue service by getting you and your team together to fundraise whilst competing in Le Race.

For more information on how you can help please contact Barbara Dawe.

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