

Media Release

29<sup>th</sup> May 2006



## MEDIA HONOURED BY ANGEL FLIGHT

At a dinner in Brisbane, on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May, representatives of electronic and print media were recognised for their outstanding service to the community through media coverage of vital messages and human-interest stories.

Before presenting this and other “Star Awards” to media organisations selected from throughout Australia, Chairman and Founder of Angel Flight Mr. Bill Bristow, reflected on the events that had inspired the birth of Angel Flight.

“Late in 2002 I was visiting a regional hospital where I noticed signs indicating that both operating theatres were closed,” he said.



Pilots flying needy patients to specialised medical care free of charge.



Angel Flight pilots donate their flying skill and the bulk of their aircraft operating expenses.

We help

- Any needy person/s requiring non-emergency medical treatment
- Relatives and carers travelling with, or to be with, those needing care.

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“In addition both town doctors were away that weekend and a locum had been flown in. I later discovered that whilst one-third of Australia’s population live in rural areas, less than 10% of Australia’s 70,000 doctors work in these areas. The plight of those requiring similar medical help in regional and rural was obvious.”

Mr. Bristow stressed the vital role the media had played in spreading the word to those needing the help of Angel Flight and attracting community support.

“Your stories provide the ‘on the ground’ emotions that so often flow from real life missions,” he said.

“Your stories carry the detailed explanation of the who, what, where, when, why and how of Angel Flight that advertising can’t hope to communicate. Every story helps insure that those in need will know they don’t have to struggle with the physical, emotional and financial challenges that face those with medical needs living in remote areas.”

In addition to the contribution the media has made in building awareness amongst those in need, Mr. Bristow said that there had been additional benefits from the stories that had been told.

“What has been amazing and I must give most of the credit to you, the media, is that all the vital ingredients of Angel Flight seem to have magically lifted all at the same time,” he said.

“As the number of mission requests has risen, the number of volunteer pilots and donations from the community has risen. Almost all this growth has been thanks to the media. You have allowed us to talk to the community because you have talked to the community for us.”

Also attending this very special dinner was Thargomindah resident Rebecca Keene, who told her story of how Angel Flight, with the help of the media, had impacted on her life.

“Until I found out about Angel Flight through the media, I was having to drive for around 16 hours to Brisbane on a regular basis to receive medical treatment for one of my twin boys, Mitchell,” she said.

“Mitchell was born with a serious heart condition necessitating very long and tiring trips with both boys. When Angel Flight said they would help it was like a miracle because instead of the debilitating car journeys we would be travelling for about three hours with very special pilots. This relieved not only the physical demands placed upon us, but also the effect the travelling and time away from home had upon us as a family.”

The Hospitality Training Association, in Brisbane, generously sponsored the Media Stars Dinner. Preparation and service on the night involved a total of 50 apprentices and three trainers who together provided exceptional service and a menu that would be the envy of many top restaurants.

For further information and interviews please contact:

Angel Flight General Manager, Peter Riachi, 0408 242 253 or  
Angel Flight Founder and Chairman Bill Bristow on 0438 243 911  
You are also invited to visit Angel Flight on: [www.angelflight.org.au](http://www.angelflight.org.au)

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