



**LifeFlight**  
RETRIEVAL MEDICINE

# Head Medical



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## Aero-Medical Retrieval – LifeFlight Queensland



With its relaxed lifestyle and an average of 300 sunny days per year, Queensland is affectionately known as the ‘Sunshine State’. It is the second largest state with a population of 4.5 million, and is home to 10 of Australia’s 30 largest cities. The relatively widespread population relies strongly on aero-medical retrieval services such as those provided by LifeFlight, a charity that is contracted by the Queensland government to provide aero-medical staffing throughout the state.

Head Medical have been proudly working alongside LifeFlight for over six years, and since 2010 we have recruited more than 45 Registrars and Consultants for positions with them. We’re the only UK based specialist in international medical recruitment, and we’ll help with your job application, interview, registration and relocation. The experience is second-to-none, both clinically and academically. With regular lectures, CPD and study time, this is a fantastic career as well as life experience.

Doctors can choose to undertake either a 6 or 12 month contract. There are two intakes per year, one in February and one in August. There are 8 bases and all Doctors have a primary location, but are also required to rotate to others. Upon arrival there is one week training based at the LifeFlight Training Academy at Varsity Lake on the Gold Coast. Training week consists of specific operational training for rotary wing and fixed wing operations, encompassing pre-hospital care, winching operations, disaster management and international retrieval. A Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) course is also undertaken during this period as well as Emergency Breathing Systems (EBS). There is an emphasis on safety, risk management and applying aviation Crew Resource Management (CRM) principles to both medical and operational aspects of the service.



***“The job has exceeded my expectations. I have learnt a great deal and feel I have become a better Doctor for my experience”***

Sarah M, LifeFlight Registrar



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## What Experience Do I Need?



We recruit Doctors at Consultant / Specialist level and also Registrars. You must have appropriate skills in Anaesthetics, Intensive Care Medicine and / or Emergency Medicine. And you must have at least five years post-graduate, clinical experience.

There is a comprehensive training and induction week at the beginning of your contract. You'll be based at a purpose built training facility on the Gold Coast and the training involves medical aspects of retrieval and pre-hospital care, as well as aviation safety, helicopter underwater escape training, and helicopter winching.

**Duties** will vary from base to base, with responsibilities including:

### Rotary Wing:

- Scene Response – activation on scene for motor vehicle accidents, climbing and bushwalking injuries, farming/industrial, remote area medical problems
- Search and Rescue – beacon searches, missing bushwalkers, ships requiring assistance

### Fixed Wing:

- Inter-facility transfer – transfer of patients from rural and remote hospitals to secondary/tertiary hospitals

### Fixed Wing – International:

- The LifeFlight Learjets provides an air medical retrieval service within Queensland for longer distance transports (for example Cairns – Brisbane, Mt Isa – Townsville) and to the South Pacific region including PNG, Vanuatu, Noumea, Fiji, New Zealand, Samoa and Indonesia.

**Inter-hospital/Inter-facility transfers** are predominantly from smaller rural and regional hospitals with limited facilities and patients are often undifferentiated and require stabilisation prior to transport. The major categories of patients transferred include trauma, cardiac, medical (particularly sepsis and respiratory failure) and obstetric and some paediatric.







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### **Patient Acuity**

Approximately 15-20% of patients transported are intubated.

Approximately 5-10% of patients require inotrope support.

### **Clinical Supervision**

During initial training and orientation Consultants may accompany Registrars on tasks. They are available for telephone consultation with a Registrar on-scene or while in flight - Registrars are expected to consult after assessing the patient and at any time during a task as required.

Experienced air-medical paramedics form a vital part of the medical retrieval team on all tasks and also play an important role in mentoring Registrars.

### **Continuing Medical Education**

There is a designated weekly training day supervised by the State Director of Training and a Director of Operations at each base. All cases are audited and reviewed. Other teaching sessions include scenarios using simulator mannequins, skills-based sessions (for example surgical airway, intra-osseous needle insertion), journal review and Registrar presentations on various topics relevant to retrieval medicine. Bases across the state link up every week by tele-conference for a presentation and review of selected cases. Registrars are interviewed at commencement and sessions structured to meet their learning needs.

### **Remuneration**

LifeFlight offer a fantastic salary package of \$126,052 AUD (on call, overtime, weekend and holiday shifts are included as part of the package).

For Consultants the salary package is \$154,400 AUD.

### **Working Hours**

The roster hours are a combination of on-base and on-call working hours. Rosters will vary from base to base depending on workload and duty/on-call mix.

Shifts on average compose of 4 x 12hr shifts per week.

You will be entitled to annual leave (2 calendar weeks for each 6 months of service) and personal leave – previously called sick leave (5 working days for each 6 months of service).



## Fitness and Training

Doctors are expected to have a level of fitness appropriate for the work, and may be expected to participate in a fitness test. Requirements at the different bases vary – Emergency Management Queensland fly with an additional rescue crewman and the medical staff fitness test is not mandatory at present.

### Example base fitness requirements:

- Walk: 2.4km < 22mins
- Swim: 400m < 10mins (completed with fins)
- Chin ups: 4 < 30secs (grip optional)
- Sit ups: 30 < 1 min (crunches)
- Push ups: 15 < 30 secs

### Other required competencies:

- HUET training (Helicopter Underwater Escape Training)
- Emergency Breathing Systems (EBS)





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## Map of Queensland with Base Locations







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## Cairns



From this stylish international city, the islands, rainforest and reef of tropical North Queensland are on your doorstep. Snorkel, dive or do a day trip to the Great Barrier Reef. Enjoy the oceanfront energy of the Cairns Esplanade and trawl the restaurants, shops and bars. Go white water rafting in the nearby rivers and take the scenic railway to the tranquil, butterfly-fringed village of Kuranda. Don't miss a day trip to the magical Daintree Rainforest, thought to be the planet's oldest surviving tropical rainforest.

### About the base:

- Fly with Emergency Management Queensland in helicopters
- Missions are sometimes performed via road, police boat or volunteer coastguard boat (due to maintenance or weather restrictions)
- Regularly called to winch and primary mission both inland Cairns and out to the Great Barrier Reef

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## Townsville

Townsville is located in the heart of coastal Queensland, opposite the Great Barrier Reef, and a boat ride away from the beautiful Magnetic Island. Dine alfresco on fresh local seafood on Palmers Street and explore the balmy nightlife on Flinders Street East.

Townsville is also the jumping-off point to the Yongala shipwreck, one of Australia's top dive sites.

### About the base:

- Fly with Emergency Management Queensland in helicopters and with the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Turboprop fixed wing jet
- At present CareFlight also base one of our three Learjets at this base





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## Mackay

Mackay offers an array of city and country style attractions that are sure to knock your socks off! If you're after an outback adventure, head to historic bush-towns like Nebo or Clermont to discover open cut mines and ancient landscapes, or bushwalk through one of our spectacular National Parks! If a cityscape is more your style, enjoy Mackay's balmy tropical nights by dining alfresco at the Marina, stroll through Mackay and the Botanic Gardens or simply relax by the Bluewater Lagoon!

### About the base:

- Unique base – shifts run from 6am-6pm with no overnight work
- Good variety of primaries and IHTs – most to and from surrounding holiday islands



## Rockhampton

Rockhampton is a coastal Queensland town situated on the Tropic of Capricorn in Darumbal country. The central business district, particularly Quay Street and East Street, make one of Australia's most elegant streetscapes. The concentration of old buildings, tree-lined streets and the Fitzroy River all combine to make Rockhampton a unique place.

Rockhampton is also known as Australia's Beef Capital, so you can be sure to enjoy the perfect steak.

### About the base:

- Fixed wing shifts with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service
- Frequently required to perform a lot of patient preparation procedures at Rockhampton Base Hospital prior to transport







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## Gladstone

The City of Gladstone is located 100 kilometres south-east of Rockhampton. Better known as one of Australia's major industrial centres playing home to many industrial giants, Gladstone has fast become a popular destination for holiday makers and sea-changers alike. The region offers easy access to coral islands, unspoilt beaches and parkland.

### About the base:

- Helicopter base funded by the mining industry (Bell 412 helicopters)
- Registrars are rostered on for a 7 day period of on-call duty

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## Sunshine Coast

The Sunshine Coast is an urban area in South East Queensland, north of the state capital of Brisbane on the Pacific Ocean coastline. The natural unspoiled beauty of its tropical rain forests, miles of white sandy beaches, holiday resorts, scenic tours and a myriad of other local attractions makes this a truly wonderful location to live and work in. With one of the highest sunshine readings in the world it's easy to see why they call it the Sunshine Coast.

### About the base:

- Helicopter shifts only
- Work only with AGL Action Rescue in BK117 helicopter





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## Brisbane

Brisbane is by far the largest city in Queensland, with well over a million and a half residents. Visit the art galleries or see the ballet, take your bike for a ride in the Botanical Gardens or swim in the lagoon at South Bank. Brisbane is also a great starting point for road trips: Follow the Pacific Touring Route up to Cairns or drive the Great Sunshine Way down to the Gold Coast.

### About the base:

- Mixture of helicopter and fixed wing (jet) shifts
- Also provide road ambulance response to the local area
- Doctors fly with Emergency Management Queensland in helicopters and are on call for fixed wing work with the Royal Flying Doctor Service



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## Toowoomba & Roma

**Toowoomba** is located 127 km west of Brisbane and is the centre of the Darling Downs. It is known as Queensland's 'Garden City', a place of flowers, sparkling mountain air, and breathtaking views. To the west are rolling plains and rural townships full of character and charm, where you can retreat to a cosy fireplace with a bottle of local wine.

- Community supported helicopter base, 2nd helicopter funded by the mining industry
- Also cover some road ambulance responses in the local area

**Roma** is located further inland in the western Darling Downs area, 515 km west of Brisbane. It is renowned for its friendly down-to-earth country hospitality and 'fun times' social calendar. A true outback experience!

- Helicopter funded by mining industry
- Registrars are rostered on for a 7 day period of combined duty and on-call





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To find out more about LifeFlight and current job opportunities, get in contact with Eunan on +44 (0)131 240 5271 or [eunan@headmedical.com](mailto:eunan@headmedical.com)

Visit the [LifeFlight page](#) on our website for further details on this amazing opportunity.

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